

# Massachusetts Department of Public Health

June 27, 2016

## Weekly Zika Virus Update



# Zika Virus Weekly Update

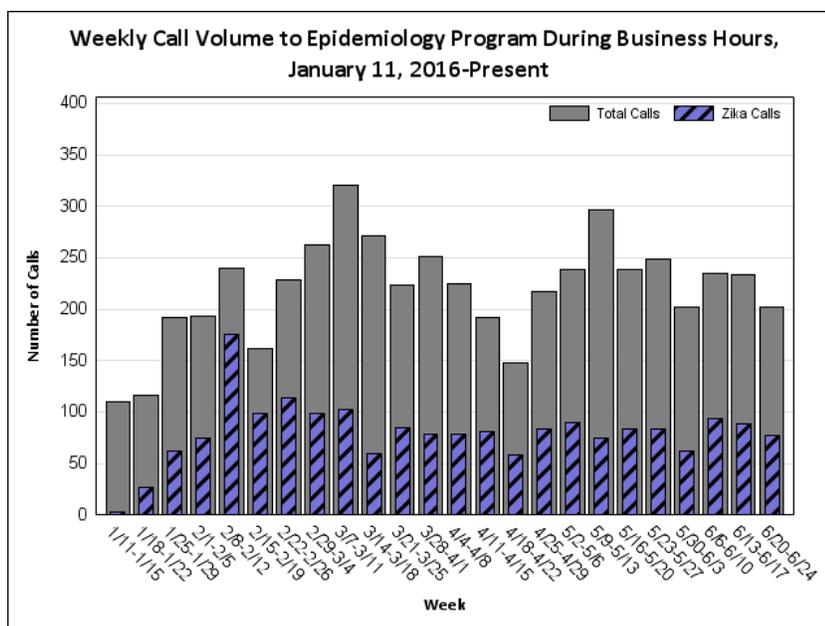
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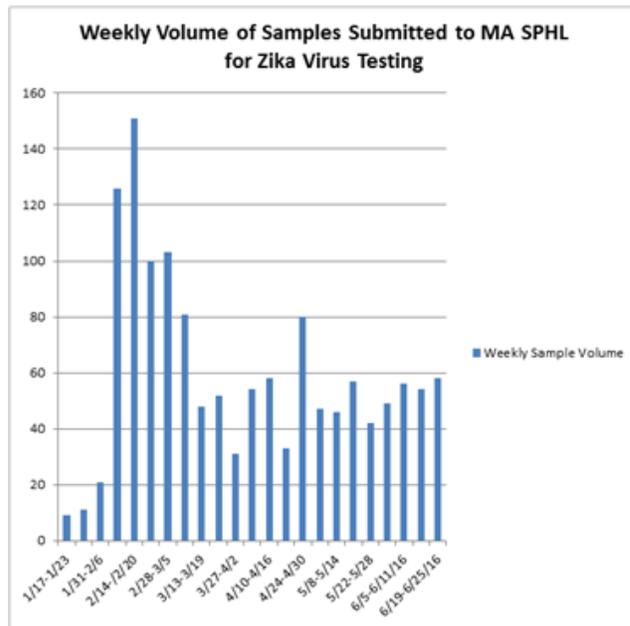
Report Number: 021

### DPH Activities Summary:

- All questions related to Zika virus testing requests should be directed to the 24/7 Epidemiology line, 617-983-6800.
- The [MDPH Zika Virus web page](#) continues to be a resource for individuals looking for information about Zika virus. The web page includes a link to a 30 minute webinar “Zika Virus and the Massachusetts Response” which can be found under the subheading, Information for Healthcare and Public Health Partners, and the Updated Zika Virus Clinical Advisory 6-1-2016 and Specimen Collection, Storage and Shipment for Zika Virus Testing.
- MDPH Epidemiology Staff continue to receive calls from clinicians, local health, and concerned residents regarding Zika virus and its public health implications in Massachusetts. The weekly call volume regarding Zika is shown below.



- The MA State Public Health Laboratory (MA SPHL) uses a PCR test to detect the genetic material of Zika, dengue and chikungunya viruses and the Zika IgM MAC-ELISA to test for antibody response to infection. Additional work is ongoing to reach full testing functionality which will include IgM ELISAs for chikungunya and dengue viruses and PRNT (confirmatory) testing for Zika, chikungunya and dengue viruses.
- Staff members of the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences and the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition Birth Defects Surveillance, and the Boston Public Health Commission, are collecting data on women and infants meeting criteria for enrollment in the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.



- Testing of pregnant women for Zika virus by PCR should be sent to the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory. Commercial laboratories do not offer the Zika IgM enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) or confirmatory serology testing (plaque reduction neutralization test) and serology testing may be required for diagnosis. For those labs that request testing of pregnant women for Zika virus by PCR from a commercial lab, the CDC advisory of June 22, 2016 recommends that a serum aliquot be stored for subsequent Zika IgM ELISA testing of Zika PCR negative samples.

**Laboratory Testing Summary:**

- The MA SPHL tested 11 samples (6 serum, 5 urine) from 8 patients by PCR and 48 samples from 48 patients using the IgM ELISA test. Positive PCR tests are confirmatory while positive IgM tests require further testing by PRNT, currently being done by CDC, to confirm the results.

**New or Revised State Guidance:** None

**National Activities**

**CDC Updates:** None

**Publications:** [Uveitis Associated with Zika Virus Infection](#)

**Guidance:** [All Countries and Territories with Active Zika Virus Transmission](#)

**Educational materials:** [Zika Virus: Information for Clinicians](#)

**For further information regarding Zika go to:**

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/zika>

*Please share with colleagues and throughout your agency, organization and/or associations. If you have comments, questions or feedback, contact us at the 24/7 Epi Line (617) 983-6800 or by email at [DPH.EmergencyPreparedness@state.ma.us](mailto:DPH.EmergencyPreparedness@state.ma.us)*