

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

July 18, 2016

Weekly Zika Virus Update



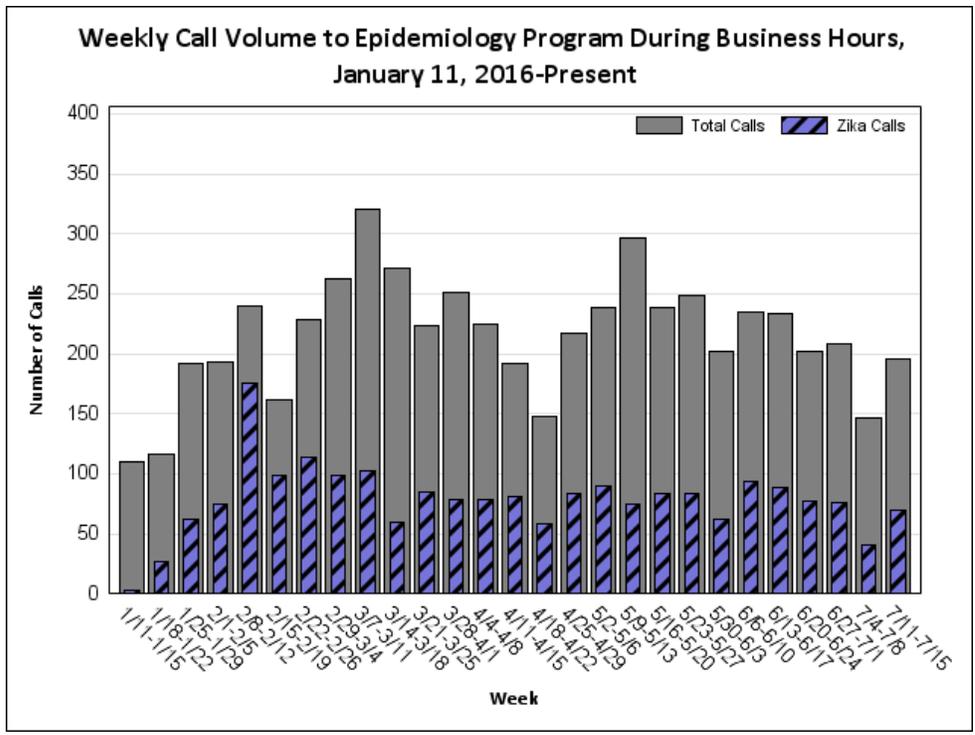
Zika Virus Weekly Update

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

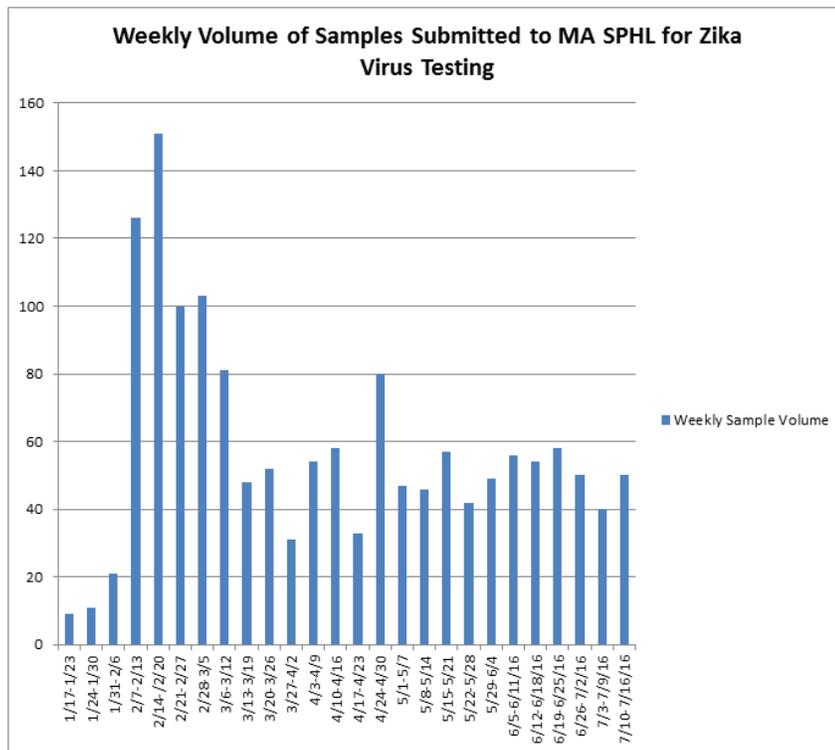
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Report Number: 024

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 is working with a vendor to develop new outreach materials aimed particularly at populations that travel frequently between Massachusetts and places where active Zika transmission is occurring. Initial materials should be ready in the early fall when many people start to make their holiday travel plans.
- 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.



- Specimens for 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 35 samples (26 serum, 9 urine) from 28 patients by PCR and 47 samples from 47 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:

- [Country Zika Classification Technical Guidance](#)
- [Zika Virus Response Planning: Interim Guidance for District and School Administrators in the Continental United States and Hawaii](#)
- [Guidance for Tribal Healthcare Providers](#)

Publications:

- [Projected Zika Virus Importation and Subsequent Ongoing Transmission after Travel to the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games — Country-Specific Assessment, July 2016](#)
- [Suspected Female-to-Male Sexual Transmission of Zika Virus — New York City, 2016](#)
- [Zika Virus in the Female Genital Tract](#)
- [Zika Virus Infection Associated with Severe Thrombocytopenia](#)

Guidance: All Countries and Territories with Active Zika Virus Transmission

Educational materials: None

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