

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

August 29, 2016

Weekly Zika Virus Update



Zika Virus Weekly Update

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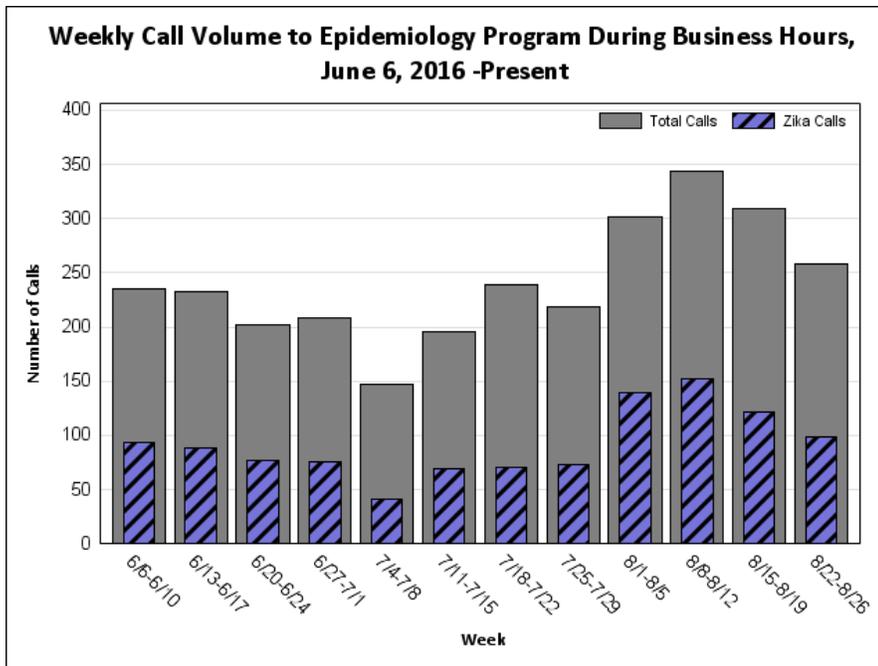
Report Number: 030

Significant Updates:

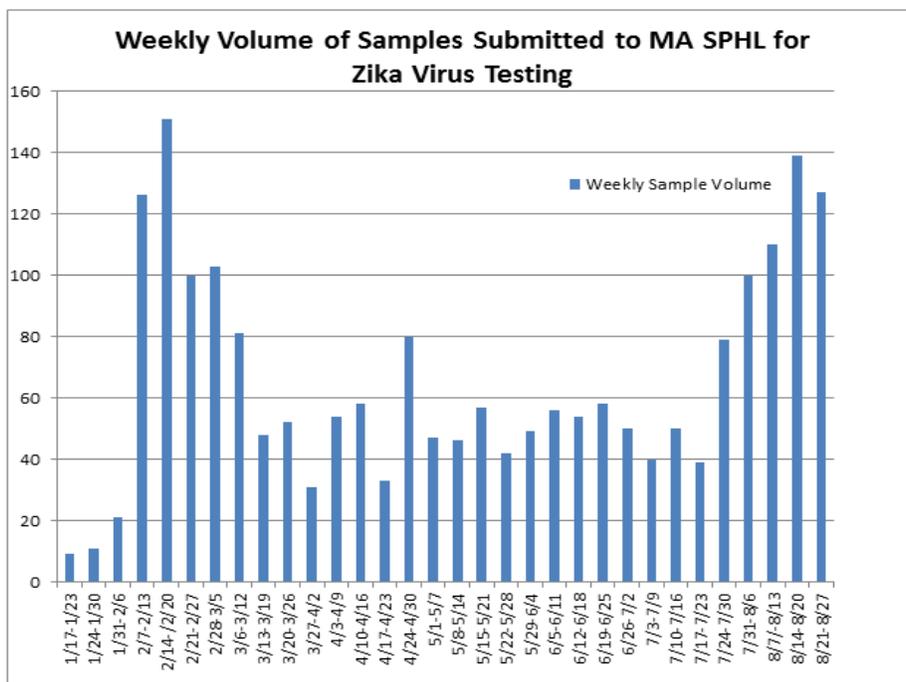
- The Florida Department of Health has investigated several isolated cases of Zika virus associated with local transmission but has not identified any areas of active transmission outside of Miami-Dade County. MDPH continues to recommend that pregnant women postpone travel to Miami-Dade County at this time; if they do travel there, they should be tested for Zika virus after they return. Anyone that travels to southern Florida should take strict precautions against mosquito bites.
- The FDA has issues revised guidance recommending that all jurisdictions begin screening donated blood for Zika virus. This has previously only been recommended in areas with active transmission. Although this is called a recommendation, this type of guidance from FDA is essentially considered to be a mandate.

MDPH 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 most current Zika Virus Clinical Advisory 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 for the last 3 months 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.



- All specimens for testing pregnant women for Zika virus should be sent to the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory. Currently, although some commercial laboratories do offer PCR and an antibody screening test (the Zika IgM enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), none of them offer confirmatory serology testing (plaque reduction neutralization test)) and multiple test types may be required for diagnosis. If a provider requests testing of pregnant women for Zika virus 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 112 samples (68 serum, 44 urine, 0 CSF, 0 amniotic fluid) from 67 patients by PCR and 99 samples from 96 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:

- [Case Counts in the US](#)

Publications:

- [Guillain-Barré Syndrome During Ongoing Zika Virus Transmission — Puerto Rico, January 1–July 31, 2016](#)
- [Likely Sexual Transmission of Zika Virus from a Man with No Symptoms of Infection — Maryland, 2016](#)
- [Prolonged Shedding of Zika Virus Associated with Congenital Infection](#)

Guidance:

- [Areas with Zika](#)
- [Areas At Risk For Locally Acquired Vector-borne Zika Cases for the Purposes of Blood and Tissue Safety](#)
- [Revised Recommendations for Reducing the Risk of Zika Virus Transmission by Blood and Blood Components](#)

Educational materials:

- [Key Zika Virus Considerations for Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Zika Virus Testing for any pregnant Woman Not Living in an Area with Zika](#)

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