

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

September 12, 2016

Weekly Zika Virus Update



Zika Virus Weekly Update

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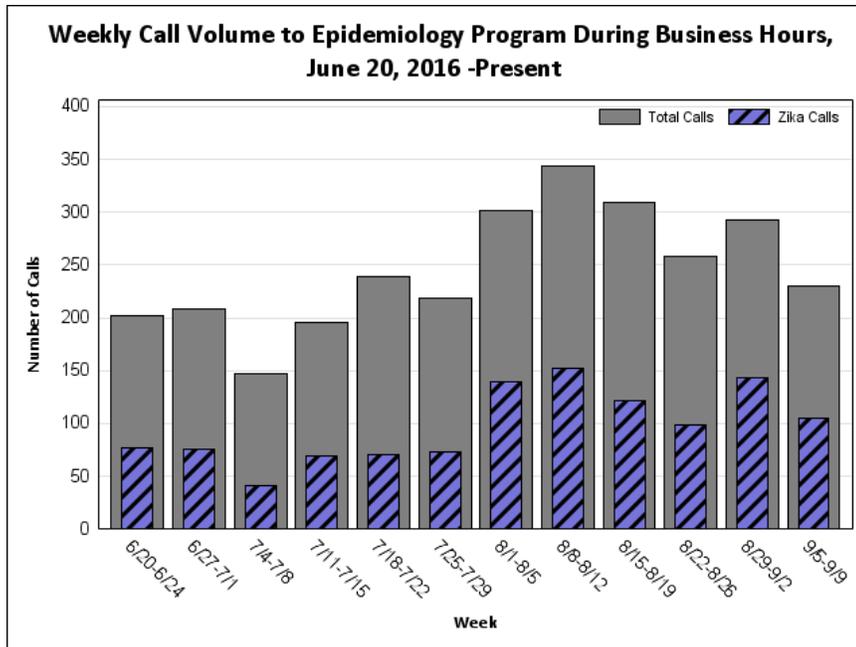
Report Number: 032

Significant Updates:

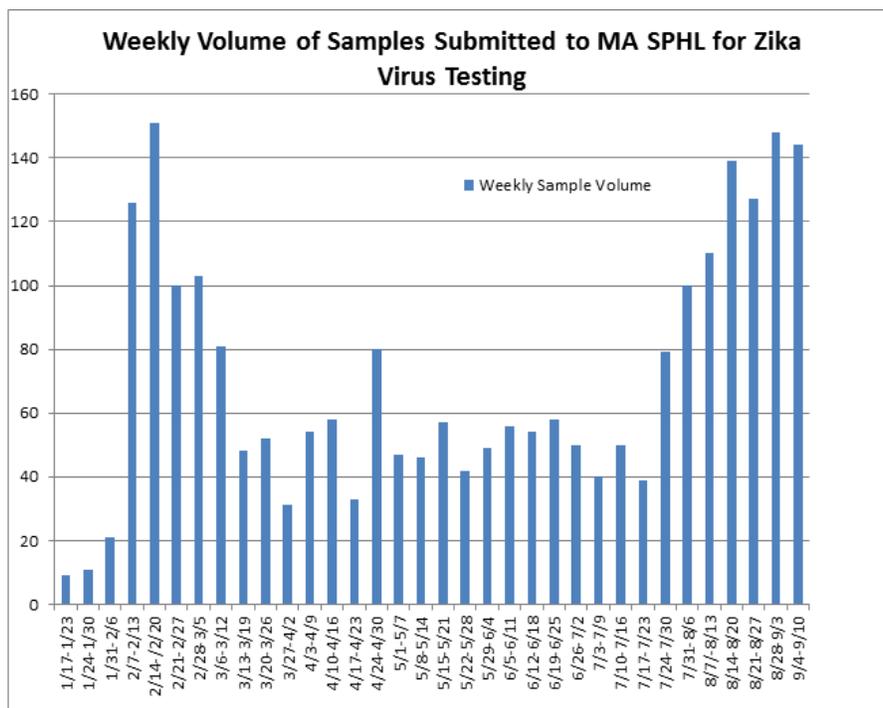
- The World Health Organization has increased their recommendation around delaying conception to 6 months for all potentially exposed couples. The current CDC recommendations are to wait 8 weeks if the female partner is symptomatic or asymptomatic following exposure, to wait 8 weeks if the male partner is asymptomatic following exposure but to wait 6 months if the male partner becomes symptomatic following exposure. CDC is currently evaluating their guidance but has not indicated if they will make a similar recommendation.

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 110 samples (64 serum, 45 urine, 1 CSF, 0 amniotic fluid) from 65 patients by PCR and 98 samples from 98 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:

- [Culex Species Mosquitoes and Zika Virus](#)

Guidance:

- [Areas with Zika](#)

Educational materials:

- [TREAT CLOTHING WITH PERMETHRIN](#)

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