

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

October 3, 2016

Weekly Zika Virus Update



Zika Virus Weekly Update

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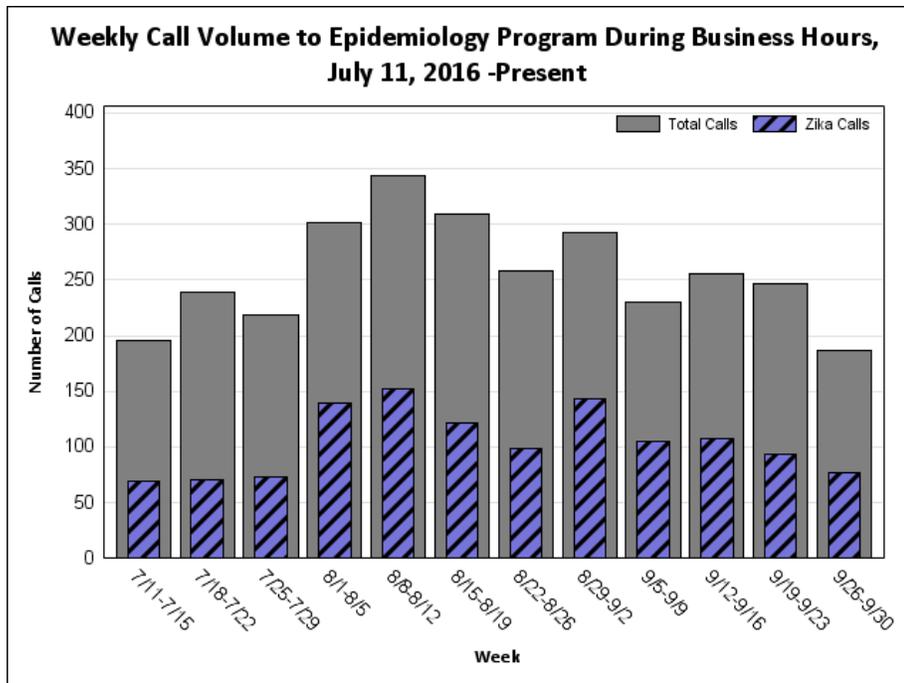
Report Number: 035

Significant Updates:

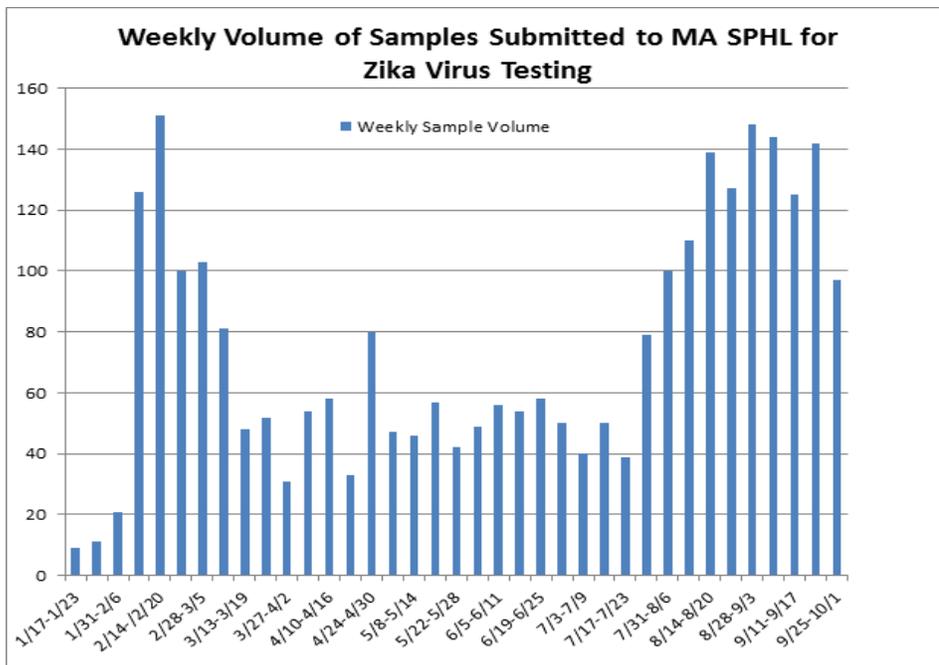
- There are new recommendations regarding timing of conception following known infection with or possible exposure to Zika virus. Women are still advised to wait 8 weeks following symptom onset or the date of their last possible exposure before attempting to conceive. Men are now advised to wait 6 months following symptoms onset or the date of their last possible exposure, regardless of the presence or absence of symptoms, before attempting conception. This change is a result of new information suggesting that Zika virus can be present in a man's semen longer than previously realized.
- On September 29th a federal bill was signed that provides \$1.1 billion in supplemental funding to respond to the Zika virus outbreak. This funding includes:
 - \$394 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support vector control, technical assistance for states, and international response activities.
 - \$397 million for the National Institutes of Health and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development authority for research related to Zika, vaccine development, and commercialization of diagnostic tests for Zika virus.
 - \$75 million to reimburse healthcare provided in states and U.S. territories with active Zika transmission for those without private health insurance.
 - \$40 million for Community Health Centers in Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories.
 - \$6 million for National Health Service Corps in Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories.
 - \$20 million for Maternal and Child Health special projects of regional and national significance (SPRANS) in Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories.

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.** For individuals not meeting the criteria for testing at the MA SPHL, providers should ensure that they are requesting the appropriate test (PCR or IgM ELISA) depending upon the presence or absence of symptoms and timing of specimen draw relative to illness onset or last possible exposure. Because the duration of viremia is quite brief in most instances, testing using both test types may be indicated. In addition, providers should be aware that

Laboratory Testing Summary:

- The MA SPHL tested 83 samples (49 serum, 34 urine, 0 CSF, 0 amniotic fluid) from 49 patients by PCR and 57 samples from 57 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:

- [Considerations for Developing a Zika Virus Vaccine](#)
- [Fast-Track Zika Vaccine Development](#)
- [Fatal Zika Virus Infection with Secondary Nonsexual Transmission](#)
- [Characteristics of Children Aged <18 Years with Zika Virus Disease Acquired Postnatally — U.S. States, January 2015–July 2016](#)

Guidance:

- [Areas with Zika](#)
- [Zika Virus in Southeast Asia](#)
- [Update: Interim Guidance for Preconception Counseling and Prevention of Sexual Transmission of Zika Virus for Persons with Possible Zika Virus Exposure — United States, September 2016](#)
- [Zika: CDC Interim Response Plan](#)

Educational materials: None

For further information regarding Zika go to:

<http://www.mass.gov/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