



# Zika Virus Testing Timeline: Comparing Commercial Laboratories and the Public Health Laboratory

Commercial Laboratory

1. Provider suspects Zika virus infection in patient; no public health authorization required

2. Provider determines appropriate test; confirms that their preferred commercial laboratory can perform test(s) and orders test(s)

3. Patient goes to lab for specimen collection †

4. Specimen analysis ‡

5. PCR or negative IgM test results received; provider notified by lab

6. Specimen analysis at CDPH-VRDL ★

7. Confirmatory PRNT results received; provider (and public health department if positive result) notified by lab

*Samples with presumptive positive, equivocal, or inconclusive IgM test results are automatically processed by CDPH-VRDL for confirmation by plaque reduction neutralization testing (PRNT)*

**Testing Complete**

**Total Time: 1 - 3 weeks**

**Continue to use the Public Health Laboratory for the following situations:**

- A fetus or infant with microcephaly or signs of congenital Zika virus syndrome whose mother was potentially exposed to Zika virus,
- A person with Guillain-Barré syndrome and potential exposure to Zika virus, or
- When sexual, local mosquito-borne, laboratory, or blood transfusion/organ transplant exposure is suspected.

Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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Public Health Laboratory

1. Provider suspects Zika virus infection in patient; submits a Zika Virus Testing Request Form to ACPHD

2. PH responds to test request; if authorization granted, provider coordinates specimen collection with patient and orders test(s)

3. Patient goes to lab for specimen collection †; lab forwards specimen to public health lab

4. Specimen analysis at CDPH-VRDL\*

5. PCR or negative IgM test results received; public health notifies provider

6. Specimen analysis at CDPH-VRDL ★

7. Confirmatory PRNT results received; public health notifies provider

*Samples with presumptive positive, equivocal, or inconclusive IgM test results are automatically processed by CDPH-VRDL for confirmation by plaque reduction neutralization testing (PRNT)*

**Testing Complete**

**Total Time: 3 - 8 weeks**

◆ As of 3/2/17 Alameda County Public Health is aware of the following labs using FDA approved testing for both molecular (R-PCR) and serologic (IgM) Zika testing: ARUP Laboratories, BioReference Laboratories, LabCorp, Mayo Medical Laboratories, Quest Diagnostics, Viracor Eurofins. Providers who wish to use other facilities should contact them prior to sending specimens to ensure they meet the requirements outlined in the 3/2/17 Health Advisory.

◇ Patient must be instructed to bring specific paperwork (provided by public health) to specimen collection location if not at provider's in-house laboratory

† Assumes patient takes approximately 2 days to get specimen drawn; this may take longer if patient delays

‡ Commercial labs reports 2-3 days turn-around-time for PCR and 2-7 days for IgM

\* Turn-around-time for the California Department of Public Health laboratory for both PCR and IgM is up to 4 weeks

★ Turn-around-time for the California Department of Public Health laboratory for PRNT is up to 2 weeks