



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20160426-00119-ADV (Health Advisory)

RECIPIENTS: All Obstetricians – Statewide

DATE: Tuesday, April 26, 2016

SUBJECT: *MSDH Updated Recommendations: Zika Virus Testing and Follow up in Pregnant Women*

Dear Colleagues,

A causal relationship has been established between Zika virus infection in pregnancy and the presence of microcephaly and other serious brain anomalies in fetuses and infants. The identification, testing and follow up of pregnant women with infection or exposure risk is a priority.

Testing Recommendations

Testing is recommended for pregnant women

- With clinical illness consistent with Zika virus disease* during or within 2 weeks of travel to an area with active Zika virus transmission or possible sexual exposure[‡], OR
- Asymptomatic pregnant women between 2-12 weeks after return from travel to an area with active Zika virus transmission

*Defined as or more of the following signs or symptoms: acute onset of fever, rash, arthralgia, or conjunctivitis

[‡]Defined as symptomatic sex partner with history of travel to a Zika affected country

Testing for Zika (RT-PCR and IgM) is currently only available through the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory (PHL).

Testing is not recommended for

- Pregnant women without a travel or exposure history
- Pregnant women with possible sexual exposure if both partners are asymptomatic
- Asymptomatic sex partners of pregnant women

Zika virus testing at the PHL requires prior approval. To request testing, please contact the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725.

Resources:

- Countries and Territories with Active Zika Virus Transmission
<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/active-countries.html>
- CDC Testing algorithm for pregnant women with possible Zika virus exposure
<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pdfs/pregnant-women-history-of-travel.pdf>
- MSDH Instructions for the submission of Zika virus specimens to the PHL
http://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/6544.pdf

US Zika Pregnancy Registry

In the event of Zika virus infection during pregnancy, MSDH will monitor both mother and child and submit data to the US Zika Pregnancy Registry. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has established the US Zika Pregnancy registry to gain a better understanding of the effects of Zika virus infection during pregnancy and related microcephaly and other birth outcomes.

Zika Virus infection is a Class I Reportable Condition, necessitating notification to MSDH with 24 hours.

- Call the MSDH Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725 (601-576-7400) to report any symptomatic or asymptomatic pregnant women with possible Zika exposure.

Birth Defect Notifications:

- If fetal anomalies or birth defects consistent with Zika virus infection, such as microcephaly, are identified, please obtain a travel history and sexual exposure history (symptomatic sex partner with history of travel to a Zika affected country). If a risk factor is identified, please notify the Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725.
- Zika testing is not recommended in the event of fetal anomalies or birth defects if there is no identified risk factor (travel, sexual exposure).

Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program:	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier:	MSHAN-20160426-00119-ADV
Program (HAN) Type:	Health Advisory
Status (Type):	Actual ()
Message Type:	Alert
Reference:	MSHAN-00119
Severity:	Unknown
Acknowledgement:	No
Sensitive:	Not Sensitive
Message Expiration:	Undetermined
Urgency:	Undetermined
Delivery Time:	600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
Alerting Program:	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
Message Identifier:	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert , ADV=Health Advisory , UPD=Health Update , MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).
Program (HAN) Type:	Categories of Health Alert Messages.
Health Alert:	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory:	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update:	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Health Info Service:	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
Status (Type):	
Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
Message Type:	
Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).