**Zika Virus Specimen Collection and Transport Guidelines**

**Whole Blood/Serum and Urine**

**Specimens:**

*Exposed symptomatic persons*
- If symptom onset is less than 14 days prior to specimen collection, both an acute serum and a urine specimen are requested. A convalescent serum specimen may also be requested, and should be collected 2-3 weeks after the acute draw.
- If symptom onset is more than 14 days prior to collection, only an acute serum specimen is requested. A convalescent specimen may also be requested, and should be collected 2-3 weeks after the acute draw.

*Pregnant women*
- For symptomatic pregnant women, collect specimens as described above.
- For asymptomatic pregnant women, a serum specimen collected 2-12 weeks following the last date of exposure is requested. Do not submit urine for an asymptomatic pregnant patient. Pregnant women with new or ongoing exposures should be retested.

*For serum specimens:*  
Submit at least 1 mL of serum in a screw-capped tube. Alternatively, collect at least 3 mL of whole blood in a serum separator or red-top tube (serum separators include tiger top and gold-top tubes). Label the specimen tube with the patient’s name (first and last), date of birth, specimen type, and date of collection. Whole blood specimens collected in serum separator tubes may be centrifuged prior to shipping.

*For urine specimens:*  
Submit 1-2 mL of urine in a screw-capped or conical tube (sterile container without preservative). Please do not submit larger volumes of urine. Label the specimen tube with the patient’s name (first and last), date of birth, specimen type, and date of collection. Specimens that leak in transit will be rejected.

**Storage:**  
Once collected, place the specimens at 2-8°C until ready to ship. Hemolyzed serum specimens, or specimens that leak in transit will not be accepted or tested. Specimens should be shipped to the ISDH Laboratories on cold packs within 24-48 hours from the time of collection. If a specimen is collected on the day prior to a weekend or holiday, please keep the specimen at 2-8°C and ship on the next available business day.

**Paperwork:**  
In LimsNet, complete the “Arbovirus (human)” submission form, ensuring that the patient information on the collection tube matches the information on the form. One form is required per specimen. Please fill out as much patient information as possible. **Patient history, including symptoms, date of symptom onset, exposure history, and travel history (including dates and countries of travel) are required for specimen submission.** Once complete, print the LimsNet coversheet. Include the LimsNet coversheet and the completed Zika rRT-PCR Testing Consent Authorization with the specimen submission. Specimens received without both of these documents will not be tested.

**Shipping:**  
Specimens should be shipped Category B (UN3373 Biological Substances) on cold packs. Wrap the labeled specimen tube with absorbent material and place in a watertight secondary container. Place the watertight secondary
container in a rigid outer container. Place the paperwork in the outer container or in a plastic bag before placing in the shipping container.

Specimens should be shipped to arrive at ISDH Laboratories Monday through Friday.

Our address:

Indiana State Department of Health Laboratories  
Attention: Virology Laboratory  
550 W. 16th Street, Suite B  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

For questions or comments regarding specimen collection, storage, or transport, please contact:

Dr. Sara Blosser (317) 921-5894