



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

BUREAU OF LABORATORIES

www.statelab.idaho.gov

IDAHO SENTINEL LABORATORY NETWORK LAB UPDATE

March 17, 2017

IBL IS CHANGING ZIKA VIRUS TESTING SERVICES ON MARCH 20, 2017

Idaho Bureau of Laboratories (IBL) serves a vital role in providing testing for emerging diseases when diagnostic testing options are limited or nonexistent in the commercial sector. The most recent example has been the use of CDC-developed assays for the detection of Zika virus. Following the emergence of Zika virus in the United States in 2016, public health laboratories nationwide provided critical testing services to diagnose this virus in travelers and residents in southern states and U.S. territories. Given the importance of this testing for pregnant women, there has been a push to develop commercially available diagnostics, which are now widely available in clinical reference laboratories. Because this testing has been fully transferred to the commercial sector, IBL will as of March 20, 2017 only be accepting Zika virus submissions that are part of an active public health district or state epidemiology investigation. IBL encourages Idaho clinical laboratories to refer Zika specimens to their normal commercial reference laboratory.

Additional laboratory information about clinical testing criteria, Zika virus signs and symptoms, and a list of commercial laboratories providing diagnostic Zika testing is available at the following CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/laboratories/lab-guidance.html>.

Testing of specimens to determine possible Zika virus infection should be limited to specimens collected from patients meeting CDC's clinical and epidemiological criteria (<https://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/index.html>) for testing.

Message Categories

Lab Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Lab Advisory: important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Lab Update: updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.