

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**Celeste Philip, MD, MPH**  
Surgeon General and Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

December 18, 2017

Dear Health Care Provider,

The Florida Department of Health continues to monitor Zika virus disease cases closely. In 2017, the number of cases reported to the Department has decreased more than 80% from 1,456 Zika cases reported in 2016 to 249 reported to date in 2017. As the number of travel-associated Zika cases continues to decline, the risk of Zika virus introduction to Florida has decreased to what likely will be baseline levels (i.e. low but not absent). The Department, therefore, recommends practitioners use the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention standard risk factors (see [www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/pregnant-women/testing-and-diagnosis.html](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/pregnant-women/testing-and-diagnosis.html)) for non-endemic areas to determine criteria for Zika testing of pregnant women in Florida. For women who meet these criteria, Florida Medicaid and private health plans are covering Zika testing and the Department will continue to provide free testing for uninsured pregnant women through the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL). Commercial laboratory testing should be utilized for pregnant women who do not 1) report travel or residence in an area where Zika may be present; 2) report possible sexual transmission risk during pregnancy; or 3) meet suspected local case criteria.

The Department will continue to provide Zika virus testing at BPHL for:

- Symptomatic patients who are uninsured with two or more of the following signs/symptoms: fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia or conjunctivitis (GBS could follow) **and** a history of travel to an area reporting Zika virus activity in the two weeks prior to illness onset.
- Potentially exposed, uninsured, asymptomatic pregnant women tested through the end of the first postnatal week.
- Infants of potentially exposed pregnant women.
- Suspected Guillian-Barre cases with recent potential exposure to Zika virus.
- Suspected local cases with three or more of the following signs/symptoms: fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia or conjunctivitis.

To arrange specimen testing at BPHL, please contact your county health department for guidance.

Thank you for your partnership in meeting the needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Carina Blackmore, DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVPM  
Director  
Division of Disease Control & Health Protection  
State Epidemiologist