

PLEASE NOTE-REVISED CHART (August 2018)

Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Laboratories Administration
Guidelines and Instructions for Zika Testing

Review of the current MDH Zika virus testing guidance is highly recommended and is available at <https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/pages/zika.aspx>, as well as the CDC guidance found in the links below.

Specimen Collection and Handling

Testing Category	Specimen Type (see notes 1 & 2)	Volume/Amount	Collect in:	Storage and Shipping Conditions (see note 3 for storage > 7 days)
Symptomatic Adults and Children <i>Refer to http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/types-of-tests.html</i>	Serum	3-5ml (6-10 ml blood draw)	Red top, tiger top, or gold top serum separator tube	Refrigeration (2-8°C)
	Whole Blood	4-5 ml	Purple top EDTA tube	Refrigeration (2-8°C)
	Urine	5-10 ml	Leak proof, sterile urine cup; label as urine	Refrigeration (2-8°C)
	Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF)	1-2 ml	Leak proof, sterile tube or vial; label as CSF	Refrigeration (2-8°C)
Infants (within 2 days of birth) <i>Refer to CDC Guidelines on Collecting and Submitting Specimens at Time of Birth for Zika Virus Testing http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/test-specimens-at-time-of-birth.html</i>	Serum	≥2 ml serum (≥4 ml blood draw)	Red top, tiger top, or gold top serum separator tube	Refrigeration (2-8°C)
	Urine	5-10 ml	Leak proof, sterile urine cup; label as urine	Refrigeration (2-8°C)
	Fixed Placenta, Fetal membrane, Umbilical Cord	1 inch square of: - Umbilical cord - Fetal membranes - Placental disk edge - Placental disk midsection - Pathologic Lesions	Fix specimens in formalin; volume of formalin used should be as small as possible, but about 10x mass of tissue. (see note 4 for further instructions)	Room Temperature

Notes

- ¹ A serum specimen MUST accompany all urine, CSF, or whole blood specimens, or testing will not be performed.
- ² Plasma is not accepted for Zika testing at MDH.
- ³ If specimens (**except whole blood and fixed tissue**) are to be held for longer than 7 days after collection until delivery to the testing lab, it is recommended to freeze to ≤20° C and ship frozen (on dry ice). Avoid repeating freezing and thawing cycles. Whole blood EDTA should not be frozen but refrigerated and tested within one week of collection. Fixed tissue should be held and shipped at room temperature.
- ⁴ Place tissue collected according to the dimensions provided above in 10% buffered formalin for three days (72 hours). After fixation, if not paraffin-embedded, tissues SHOULD be transferred to 70% ethanol for long term storage and for shipping.
- ⁵ For shipping instructions, please refer to [Packaging and Shipping Link](#)