



# MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

*Laboratories Administration*

*Robert A. Myers, Ph.D., Director*

Date: August 7, 2018

To: Health Officers, Laboratory Directors and Healthcare Providers

From: Robert A. Myers Ph.D.   
Director MDH Laboratories Administration

Re: Changes to Zika testing Policies at the MDH Laboratory

Preapproval by Maryland Department of Health (MDH) or Local Health Department epidemiologists for Zika virus testing at the MDH Laboratory will no longer be required. Zika testing will continue to be performed at the MDH Laboratory for symptomatic travelers to endemic areas and infants born to at risk mothers. Testing can be ordered as part of a **“Travel-Associated Arboviral panel”** that includes testing for Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya viruses. Simultaneous testing for these viruses is recommended because these viruses often co-circulate and the on-set of illness for these infections can be clinically indistinguishable. Appropriate travel and patient histories must be included on the test request form before testing can be performed. Guidance for submitting specimens to the MDH Laboratory for the Travel Associated Arbovirus panel are attached and can be found at (<https://health.maryland.gov/laboratories/Pages/Zika.aspx>). Health care providers who are requesting Zika testing of asymptomatic travelers are encouraged to use commercial laboratories.

Please contact the MDH Arboviral testing Laboratories at 443-681-3937 (Serology) or 443-681-3924 (PCR) if you have additional questions about submitting specimens for testing.

cc: Dr. Howard Haft  
Dr. David Blythe  
Dr. David Crum  
Ruth Thompson

Attachments: