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California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

MEMORANDUM

April 29, 2016

To: Hospital laboratories
Re: Submission of Fetal Specimens for Zika Virus Testing

For evaluation of infants whose mothers have positive or inconclusive test results for Zika virus infection or for infants with microcephaly or intracranial calcifications, the recommendations for laboratory evaluation at CDC or CDPH-VRDL of specimens collected at delivery include the following:

Recommended specimens for collection: Please refer to CDC's Zika Virus: Collection and Submission of Fetal Tissues for Zika Virus Testing (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/tissue-collection-submission.html>) for additional details.

- Serum from umbilical cord or from infant within 2 days of delivery
- Placenta and umbilical cord tissue. Placenta should be sampled extensively; including several full thickness pieces, including sections of the placental disk, membranes, umbilical cord, and any pathologic lesions when possible. To optimize evaluation of possible Zika virus infection on fetal tissues, please provide both formalin fixed and frozen tissues. **If it is not possible to provide both types of tissue, prioritize formalin fixed tissues.**
- In cases of fetal demise, if possible also collect fixed tissues from multiple organs including brain, eye, spinal cord.

Conditions for shipping: Please refer to CDPH-VRDL's Zika Laboratory Testing Guidance (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/vrdl/Documents/Zika_Testing_VRDL_Quicksheet.pdf) for additional details.

- Serum should be sent on cold packs.
- Formalin fixed (wet) or formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissues should be sent at room temperature or cold packs.
- Frozen tissue should be sent on dry ice.

Required paperwork: Please refer to CDPH-VRDL's Zika Laboratory Testing Guidance (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/vrdl/Documents/Zika_Testing_VRDL_Quicksheet.pdf) for additional details. **Specimens should be shipped as directed by your local public health laboratory.**

1. VRDL General Purpose Specimen Submittal Form Lab 300: <http://tinyurl.com/VRDLLab300>.
 - A separate form is required for each individual specimen submitted
 - Frozen tissues require a separate form from formalin-fixed tissues even if they are of the same specimen source

- All forms should be included in the shipping box.
2. The 2016 CDC DASH Submittal Form
- Use the VRDL version provided to your local public health laboratory, not the CDC Form 50.34 provided on CDC websites.
 - This form is only required for **tissue samples**.
 - The following information is required:
 - Your local public health department contact information as the “Intermediate Submitter”
 - Date of symptom onset. For asymptomatic pregnant women:
 - Under “Clinical Diagnosis” choose “asymptomatic”
 - Leave “Onset dates” blank
 - Pregnancy status and estimated due date, as applicable (testing will be expedited for pregnant women)
 - List of clinical symptoms
 - Travel history
 - Email electronic copies of all forms to VRDL.submittal@cdph.ca.gov

Shipping instructions: Please refer to CDPH-VRDL’s Zika Laboratory Testing Guidance (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/vrdl/Documents/Zika_Testing_VRDL_Quicksheet.pdf) for additional details.

- ***Specimens should be shipped as directed by your local public health laboratory.*** If directed by your local health department, specimens can be shipped and directed to the VRDL using the following address:

Specimen Receiving
CDPH VRDL
850 Marina Bay Parkway
Richmond, CA 94804

- CDPH-VRDL requests that specimens be shipped for arrival Monday through Friday if possible. CDPH-VRDL can receive high-priority specimens on weekends to be stored until the following work day, in which case frozen specimens should be packed in extra dry ice to avoid thawing over the weekend.

Questions about specimen collection, submittal, or shipping: Please contact the VRDL Medical and Epidemiology Liaison Section, (510) 307-8585, or email VRDL.submittal@cdph.ca.gov.