

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
2016 – PAHAN – 341 – 7-1-ADV
Zika Virus: Reporting Pregnancy Related Outcomes



DATE:	July 1, 2016
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Karen M. Murphy, PhD, RN Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	Zika Virus: Reporting Pregnancy Related Outcomes
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	Statewide
STREET ADDRESS:	n/a
COUNTY:	n/a
MUNICIPALITY:	n/a
ZIP CODE:	n/a

This transmission is a “Health Advisory” that provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL.

EMS COUNCILS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE.

FQHCs: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE.

LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

Background

Since January 1, 2016, a total of 31 cases of confirmed or probable Zika virus infection have been reported among Pennsylvania residents. Mosquito-borne transmission of Zika virus has not been documented within Pennsylvania.

In April 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concluded there is enough evidence to link Zika virus infection in pregnant women to microcephaly and other birth defects in the fetus and baby (<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2016/s0413-zika-microcephaly.html>). For this reason, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) is requesting cooperation in reporting of pregnancy related outcomes in persons with possible Zika virus exposure.

A large number of samples are being submitted for testing at public health laboratories. At this time, results from samples submitted via PA DOH (for PCR and/or serology) may not be reported to providers for as long as one month after submission. When samples are submitted to commercial labs (for PCR) results may be reported in as little as one week.

Reporting Pregnancy Changes

When clinical samples from pregnant women are submitted for Zika virus testing to the CDC via PA DOH or a commercial lab, the **PA DOH requests that any changes in the pregnancy and/or any adverse pregnancy outcomes be reported directly to the PA DOH during the time that results are pending.** Although many of these specimens will ultimately test negative for Zika, it is important for PA DOH to obtain timely information about changes in pregnancy status and adverse events in women who may have been exposed to the Zika virus.

In addition, there may be pregnant women residing in Pennsylvania who have tested positive for Zika virus infection, but the testing was done out of state or in another country. Since PADOH is responsible for following up with these women, please report these cases to PA DOH through PA-NEDSS or by calling 1-877-PAHEALTH (1-877-724-3258).

Should a pregnant woman with possible Zika virus exposure experience a change in her pregnancy including delivery, elective abortion, etc., or an adverse outcome in her pregnancy including miscarriage, stillbirth, abnormal prenatal testing results, etc., prior to receiving Zika test results, please contact PA DOH at 1-877-PAHEALTH (1-877-724-3258).

Additionally, if a pregnant woman with possible Zika virus exposure for whom no known Zika virus testing has been conducted experiences a change in her pregnancy including delivery, elective abortion, etc., or an adverse outcome in her pregnancy including miscarriage, stillbirth, abnormal prenatal testing results, etc., please contact PA DOH at 1-877-PAHEALTH (1-877-724-3258).

United States Zika Pregnancy Registry

If a pregnant woman tests positive for Zika infection or if laboratory evidence cannot rule out Zika infection, she will be enrolled in the United States Zika Pregnancy Registry (USZPR) managed by the CDC. The provider will be contacted so that PA DOH may obtain information on the pregnant patient for entry into the USZPR. The pediatrician caring for the baby born to a woman with evidence of Zika virus infection will also be contacted so that PA DOH may obtain information on the baby at the following times: Delivery; 2 months of age; 6 months of age; and 12 months of age (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/registry.html>).

Categories of Health Alert messages:

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

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

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

This information is current as of July 1, 2016, but may be modified in the future.
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