LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS

Laboratory testing is essential for confirmation of Zika virus infection

1. **Develop Capacity.** Laboratory confirmation is important for patient management and Zika action plan execution.

2. **Be prepared.** Procure necessary resources for supplies and equipment. Ensure adequate staffing levels for increased or surge-level requests for testing, potentially including cross-training laboratorians.

3. **Develop a plan.** Determine how you will prioritize testing pregnant women with possible Zika virus infection.

4. **Educate clinicians.** Reach out to healthcare providers, particularly OB/GYNs, regarding available Zika virus diagnostic testing options and how to correctly collect and transport samples for testing.

5. **Communicate.** Assess, and if necessary, modify communication plans between laboratory and epidemiology teams.

6. **Report cases.** Zika is nationally notifiable as an arboviral disease. Report positive Zika virus laboratory results to CDC (ArboNET). Reporting cases helps to inform national surveillance, guidance, and policy decisions.

**CDC supports public health laboratories**

- Evaluate diagnostic tests developed and distributed by CDC [http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/ucm161496.htm]:
  - Triplex rRT-PCR Assay that detects Zika virus RNA and dengue and chikungunya RNA
  - Zika MAC-ELISA that detects anti-Zika IgM antibodies


- Stay informed about the most up-to-date information on Zika virus: [http://www.cdc.gov/zika/](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/)