

# Health Update Health Update

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Acting Director/Commissioner of Health

*The City of St. Louis Department of Health is providing this information to you through the local Health Alert Network (HAN), which is part of a nationwide program to provide rapid mass distribution of information to health providers and others whenever a disease or event threatens the health of our communities. HAN provides for a new level of defense against health threats, including the possibility of bioterrorism.*

Categories of Health Alert Network Messages

**Health Alerts** convey information of the highest level of importance and warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisories** provide important information for a specific incident or situation and may not require immediate action.

**Health Updates** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation and can also provide additional information to revise a previously issued Health Alert or Health Advisory. Health Updates are unlikely to require immediate action.



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DATE: January 3 2018

SUBJECT: : Update 8 - Zika Virus Testing Through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

FROM: Randall W. Williams, MD, FACOG, Director

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) will no longer provide Zika testing services for the routine testing of asymptomatic pregnant women who have had possible recent, but not ongoing, Zika virus exposures. On July 24, 2017, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published updated guidance, indicating the routine testing of these persons is no longer recommended. The updated testing guidance was due in part to the declining prevalence of Zika virus disease in the World Health Organization’s Region of the Americas, resulting in an increased likelihood of a false-positive test result. The updated interim CDC guidance for health care providers is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/pdfs/mm6629e1.pdf>.

Zika virus testing is recommended, and remains available through the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (MSPHL), for the following:

- Anyone with recent possible Zika virus exposure and who has, or recently experienced, one or more symptoms of Zika virus disease. The symptoms of Zika virus disease include acute onset of fever, maculopapular rash, arthralgia, or conjunctivitis.
- Pregnant women who have recent possible Zika virus exposure and who have a fetus with prenatal ultrasound findings consistent with congenital Zika virus syndrome.
- Asymptomatic pregnant women with ongoing possible Zika virus exposure. Persons with ongoing possible Zika virus exposure include those who reside in, or frequently travel (e.g., daily or weekly) to, an area with risk for Zika virus transmission.

Zika virus testing is also recommended for infants with clinical findings consistent with congenital Zika syndrome who were born to mothers with possible Zika virus exposure during pregnancy, regardless of maternal test results, and for infants without clinical findings consistent with congenital Zika syndrome who were born to mothers with laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection. CDC published updated guidance for the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of infants with possible congenital Zika virus infection on October 20, 2017.

It is available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/pdfs/mm6641a1.pdf>.

The definition of possible Zika virus exposure has not changed, and includes travel to, or residence in, an area with risk for mosquito-borne Zika virus transmission, or sex with a partner who has traveled to or resides in an area with risk for mosquito-borne Ziks virus transmission. Areas with risk of Zika can be found on the CDC Zika Travel Informaion webpage at:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-information>.

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Despite the declining prevalence of Zika virus disease, all pregnant women in the United States should be asked about possible Zika virus exposure before and during the current pregnancy, at every prenatal care visit. In addition, pregnant women are recommended to not travel to any area with risk for Zika virus transmission. It is also recommended that pregnant women with a sex partner who has traveled to, or lives in, an area with risk for Zika virus transmission use condoms or abstain from sex for the duration of the pregnancy. Additional guidance for the prevention of sexual transmission of Zika is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/clinical-uidance/sexualtransmission.html>.

Healthcare providers with questions regarding Zika testing, or who wish to request testing of a patient, should contact DHSS' Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM, at 573-751-6113; after hours/weekends, 800-392-0272 (24/7). For all other questions about Zika, contact DHSS' Office of Veterinary Public Health, Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM, at 573-526-4780; after hours/weekends, 800-392-0272 (24/7)