COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

Phone: (805) 781-5507 | Fax: (805) 781-1023
www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab

SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

ZIKA VIRUS TESTING

PATIENT SELECTION

Note: Zika testing is no longer recommended for non-pregnant patients or for asymptomatic pregnant women based on current epidemiology.

- For symptomatic pregnant women, the following specimens should be collected as soon as possible and up to 12 weeks after symptom onset.
    - Urine and serum

Both urine and serum specimens can be submitted for Zika virus PCR testing. Specimens submitted for Zika virus PCR testing will be tested simultaneously for Chikungunya virus and Dengue virus. Zika IgM testing is no longer recommended because antibodies can persist for months to years following infection. Serum specimens will undergo serologic testing for Chikungunya virus and Dengue virus.

Under special circumstances, a cerebrospinal fluid specimen, amniotic fluid, and/or infant cord blood collection may be advised. Consult the SLO Public Health Department at (805) 781-5500.

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

1. Fill out the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory Requisition (include collection date and time); indicate "Zika virus testing".
2. Put the patient's name and date of collection on the specimen tubes and containers.
3. Verify that the urine container is tightly closed and properly threaded.
4. Place the specimens into a SLO PHL biohazard bag, making certain that bag is zipped completely.
5. Place requisition into the outer pocket of the biohazard bag.

STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

1. Deliver to the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory ([805] 781-5507) as soon as possible.
2. Specimens should be kept refrigerated at 4°C until they can be sent to the laboratory.

TEST ORDER OPTIONS

9000: Reference test

REJECTION CRITERIA

1. Specimens that have leaked out of original container
2. Specimens without the patient's name on the container