



# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY Public Health Laboratory

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

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

### Zika Virus Testing

#### Patient Selection:

Symptomatic patients up to 2 weeks after symptom onset.- submit urine and serum  
Asymptomatic persons up to 2 weeks after exposure ( visit to a Zika virus transmission area or sex with an individual who may be infected)-submit urine and serum  
Serum and urine specimens can be collected and submitted for PCR testing for Zika virus . Specimens submitted for Zika virus PCR testing will be tested simultaneously for Chikungunya virus and Dengue virus by PCR. Serum specimens should be obtained during the acute phase of illness (within 2 weeks of onset or exposure) for PCR and at any stage of illness for serologic testing.

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Regardless of the time elapsed since onset of illness always collect and submit a serum specimen.

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

#### COLLECTION

1. Fill out the 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 that specimens into a SLO PHL biohazard bag, making certain that bag is sealed completely.
5. Place requisition into the outer pocket of the biohazard bag.

#### STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

1. Deliver to 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.

#### REJECTION CRITERIA

1. Specimens that have leaked out of original container
2. Specimens that do not have the patient's name on the container