

# Massachusetts Department of Public Health

April 4, 2016

## Weekly Zika Virus Update



# Zika Virus Weekly Update

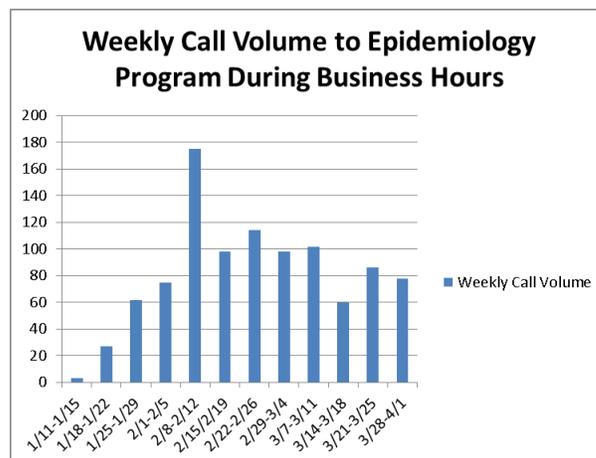
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Report Number: 009

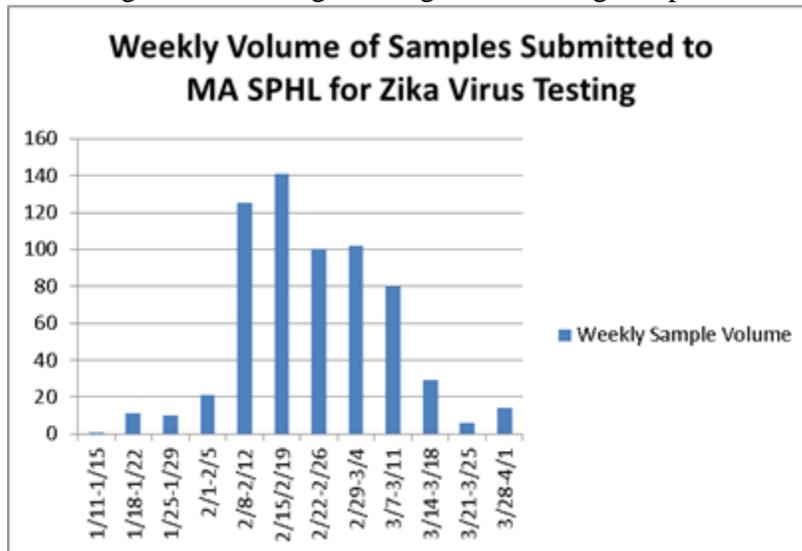
### DPH Activities Summary:

- Representatives from the DPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management, and the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition, as well as the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and Boston Public Health Commission attended the Zika Action Plan Summit in Atlanta on April 1. Attendees participated in roundtable discussions with subject matter experts from CDC, problem-solved with colleagues from other jurisdictions and identified action items to improve response to Zika virus within Massachusetts.
- Last week the Department issued a blog post titled [Zika Virus and Travel: Advice for Women](#) focusing on what women need to know about pregnancy-related risks associated with travel to areas with Zika virus transmission. The blog post has been published in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Haitian Creole](#) and is also available on the [DPH Zika Virus webpage](#). An additional French translation of the blog post will be available later this week. The Department has begun proactively communicating the availability of these materials via the DPH Twitter account, and the Spanish, Portuguese and Haitian Creole materials have been distributed to ethnic media outlets and publications across Massachusetts via the Department's ethnic media lists.
- The MA State Public Health Laboratory (MA SPHL) uses a PCR test to detect the genetic material of Zika and chikungunya viruses and the Zika IgM MAC-ELISA to test for antibody response to infection. Additional work is ongoing to reach full testing functionality which will include PCR, ELISA and PRNT (confirmatory) testing for Zika, chikungunya and dengue viruses.
- The 24/7 Epidemiology line has been fielding calls from clinicians, local health, and concerned residents regarding Zika virus and its public health implications in Massachusetts. The current weekly call volume regarding Zika is shown below. Total calls received during business hours since January 15 is 978.



### Laboratory Testing Summary:

- The MA SPHL tested 4 samples (1 serum and 3 urine) from 3 patients by PCR and 30 samples from 30 patients using the IgM ELISA test. Positive PCR tests are confirmatory while positive IgM tests require further testing by PRNT, currently being done by CDC, to confirm.
- The MA SPHL no longer has a testing backlog for incoming samples.



### New or Revised State Guidance:

Updated guidance will be released once the MA SPHL reaches full testing functionality.

### National Activities

#### CDC Updates

**Publications:** [Vital Signs: Preparing for Local Mosquito-Borne Transmission of Zika Virus — United States, 2016](#)

**Guidance:** [Congenital Microcephaly Case Definitions](#)

#### Educational materials:

- Fact sheets and posters are available in English and Spanish; a few are also available in Portuguese. These are all available at: [Fact Sheets and Posters | Zika virus | CDC](#)
- Factsheet: [A POSITIVE ZIKA VIRUS TEST What does it mean for me?](#)
- Checklist: [Doctor's Visit Checklist: For Pregnant Women Who Traveled to an Area with Zika](#)

**For further information regarding Zika go to:**

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/zika>

*Please share with colleagues and throughout your agency, organization and/or associations. If you have comments, questions or feedback, contact us at (617) 983-6800 or by email at [DPH.EmergencyPreparedness@state.ma.us](mailto:DPH.EmergencyPreparedness@state.ma.us).*