

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

April 18, 2016

Weekly Zika Virus Update



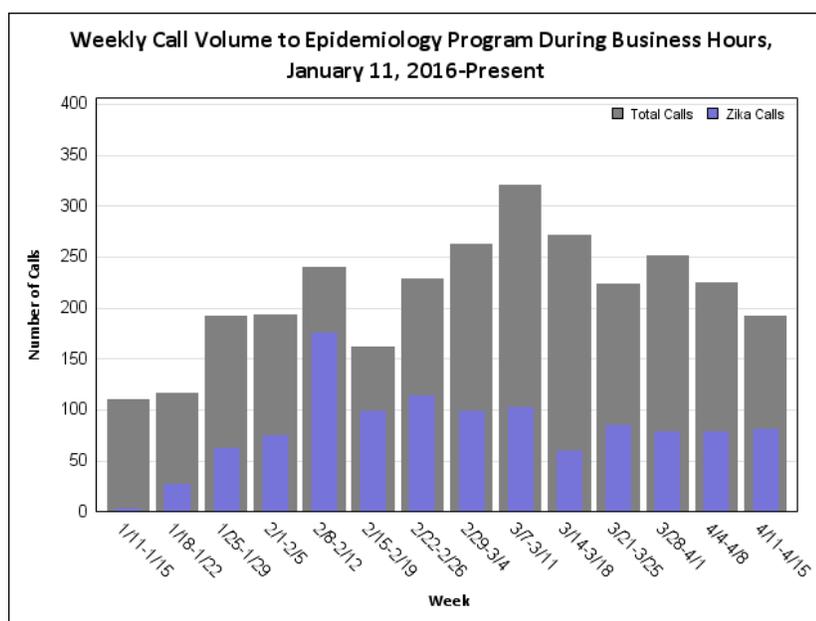
Zika Virus Weekly Update

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

April 18, 2016
Report Number: 011

DPH Activities Summary:

- All questions related to Zika virus testing requests should be directed to the 24/7 Epidemiology line, 617-983-6800.
- MDPH Epidemiology Staff continue to receive calls from clinicians, local health, and concerned residents regarding Zika virus and its public health implications in Massachusetts. The weekly call volume regarding Zika is shown below. Total calls received during business hours since January 11 is 1139. **Please note in the new format of the graph below, Zika calls are shown in purple as a proportion of the total calls received on the 6800 line.**

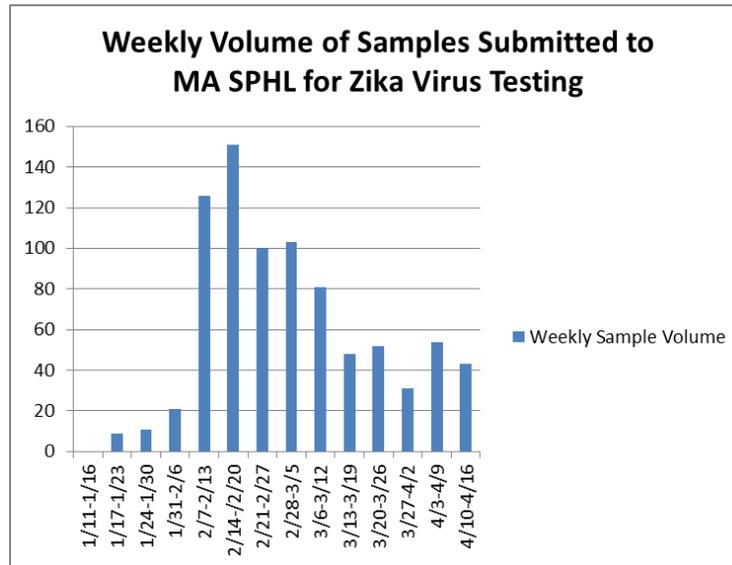


- The MA State Public Health Laboratory (MA SPHL) uses a PCR test to detect the genetic material of Zika and chikungunya viruses and the Zika IgM MAC-ELISA to test for antibody response to infection. Additional work is ongoing to reach full testing functionality which will include PCR, ELISA and PRNT (confirmatory) testing for Zika, chikungunya and dengue viruses.
- MDPH blog post on [Zika virus and Travel: Advice for Women](#) has been published as a [standalone article in El Planeta](#), one of the most widely-read Spanish-language media outlets in greater Boston.

Laboratory Testing Summary:

- The MA SPHL tested 7 samples (4 serum and 3 urine) from 4 patients by PCR and 58 samples from 43 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 is providing testing services for the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services and received 7 samples from NH residents this week.



New or Revised State Guidance:

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

National Activities

CDC Updates: [Zika Virus Pregnancy Registry](#) materials finalized and provided to states. Individual enrollment calls with states are being scheduled.

Publications: [Male-to-Male Sexual Transmission of Zika Virus — Texas, January 2016](#)

[Rasmussen SA, Jamieson DJ, Honein MA, Petersen LR. Zika Virus and Birth Defects - Reviewing the Evidence for Causality. \(2016\).N Engl J Med. 2016 Apr 13. \[Epub ahead of print\]](#)

Guidance: [All Countries and Territories with Active Zika Virus Transmission](#)

Educational materials: Zika Action Plan Summit Presentations, Webcast and Resource Materials are available on line. [Summit Presentations](#) | [Zika Action Plan Summit](#) | [CDC](#)

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 the 24/7 Epi Lin (617) 983-6800 or by email at DPH.EmergencyPreparedness@state.ma.us.