

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

May 2, 2016

Weekly Zika Virus Update



Zika Virus Weekly Update

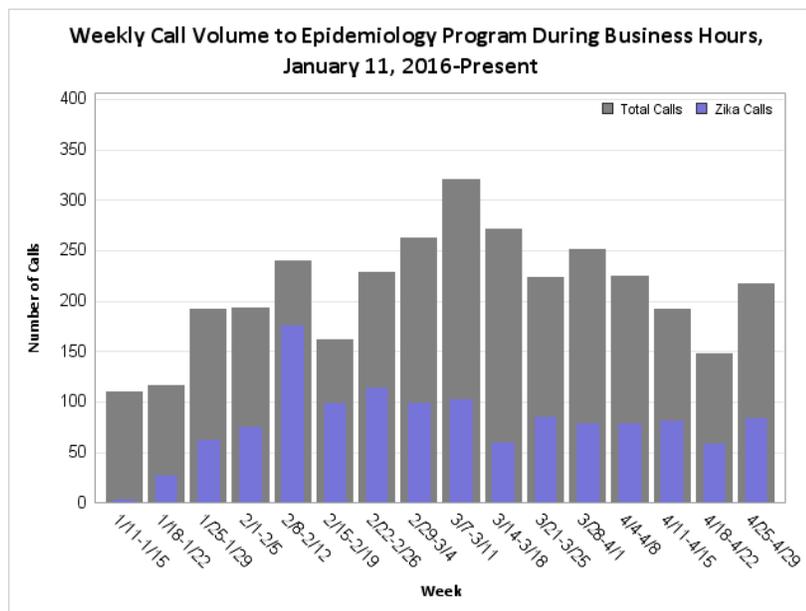
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Report Number: 013

DPH Activities Summary:

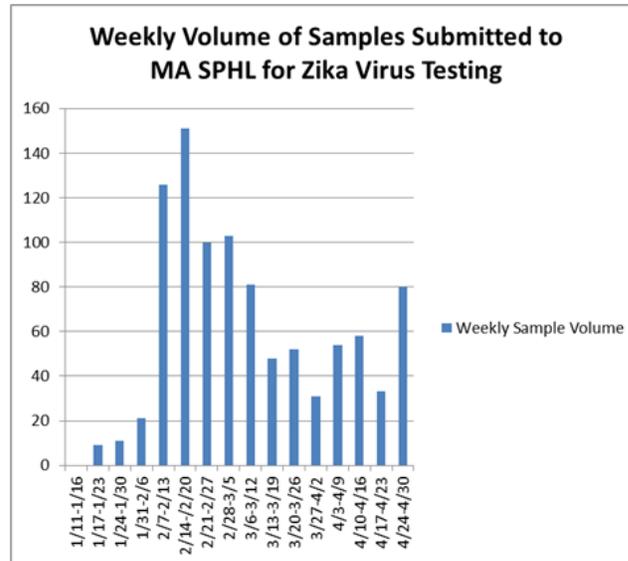
- All questions related to Zika virus testing requests should be directed to the 24/7 Epidemiology line, 617-983-6800.
- MDPH Epidemiology Staff continue to receive calls from clinicians, local health, and concerned residents regarding Zika virus and its public health implications in Massachusetts. The weekly call volume regarding Zika is shown below. Total calls received during business hours since January 11 is 1277. **Please note in the graph below, Zika calls are shown in purple/blue 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.
- Staff members of the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences and the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition Birth Defects Surveillance are continuing to develop collaborative plans to coordinate investigations of infants born to mothers with evidence of Zika virus infection. More information will be forthcoming as plans are finalized.
- MDPH is collaborating with the MA Department of Agricultural Resources and the Mosquito Control Districts on continuing to enhance the surveillance efforts for *Aedes albopictus* which have been ongoing since 2008.

Laboratory Testing Summary:

- The MA SPHL tested 3 samples (2 serum and 1 urine) from 3 patients by PCR and 37 samples from 37 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 results.



New or Revised State Guidance: None

National Activities

CDC Updates: [HIV Infection & Zika Virus](#)

Publications: [Update: Ongoing Zika Virus Transmission — Puerto Rico, November 1, 2015–April 14, 2016](#)

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

Educational materials:

[Controlling Mosquitoes at Home](#)

[Zika Activity Book: For kids in areas with Zika](#)

Media Reports

[First Test from a Commercial Lab to Receive Emergency Use Authorization for Testing Patients in the United States, including Puerto Rico, for Zika Infection – Quest Diagnostics](#)

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 Line (617) 983-6800 or by email at DPH.EmergencyPreparedness@state.ma.us.