

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

May 9, 2016

Weekly Zika Virus Update



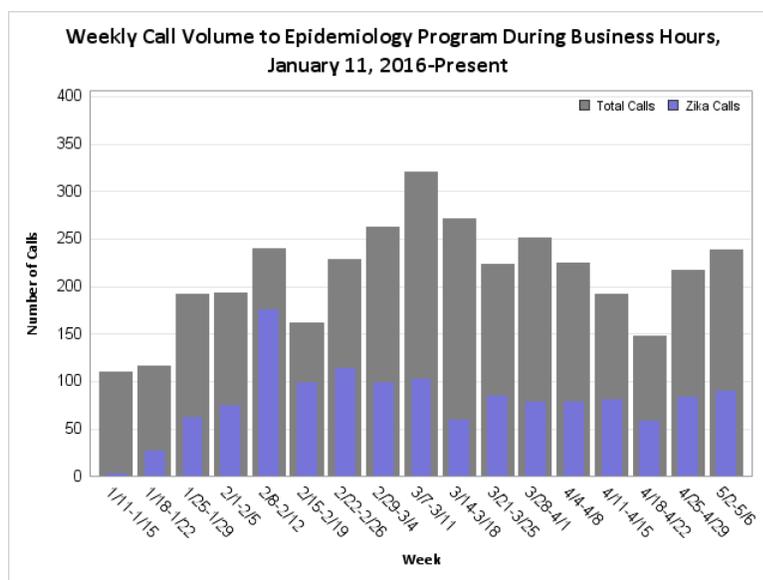
Zika Virus Weekly Update

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

May 9, 2016
Report Number: 014

DPH Activities Summary:

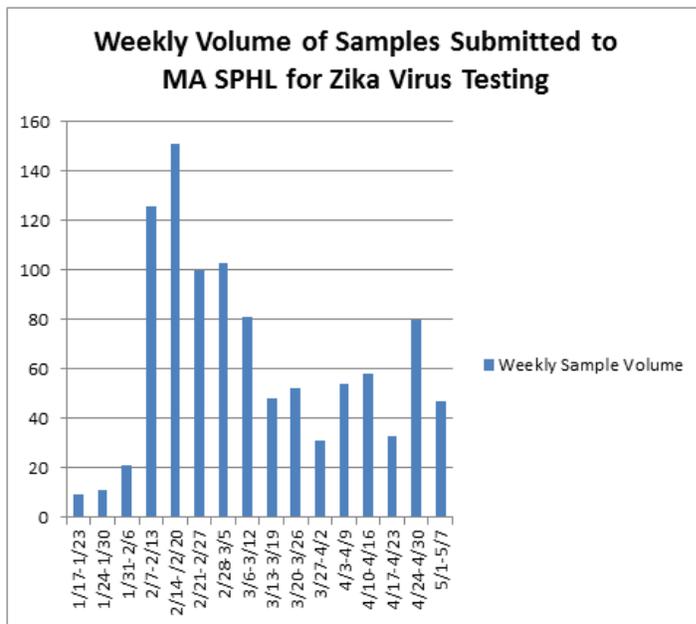
- All questions related to Zika virus testing requests should be directed to the 24/7 Epidemiology line, 617-983-6800.
- MDPH is hosting a call with local health departments this week to share information about how Massachusetts is responding to concerns about Zika virus.
- MDPH Epidemiology Staff continue 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 1366. **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 piloting a process designed to coordinate investigations of infants born to mothers with evidence of Zika virus infection.
- 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 12 samples (9 serum and 3 urine) from 9 patients by PCR and 54 samples from 54 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: none

Publications: [Time Lags between Exanthematous Illness Attributed to Zika Virus, Guillain-Barré Syndrome, and Microcephaly, Salvador, Brazil](#)

[Detection of Zika Virus in Semen](#)

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

NOTE: Peru was added to the list of affected South American countries last week

Educational materials: [Fact Sheets & Posters](#)

NOTE: now available in additional languages

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.