STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY

1610 NE 150th Street • Shoreline, Washington 98155-7224

May 9, 2016

Dear Lab Director,

Concern about Zika virus disease continues to grow, both internationally and within the United States. Current information about Zika can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/zika/

In order to enhance surveillance for Zika in Washington and to ensure appropriate follow-up of exposed persons, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is requesting that laboratories report all results of testing for Zika, both positive and negative.

Positive lab results for arboviral diseases, including Zika, are reportable by laboratories under WAC 246-101-201 (http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=246-101-201). Commercial/reference laboratories are preparing to offer a Zika virus RNA Qualitative Real-Time RT-PCR test; however, there are very few situations in which the RT-PCR test alone can rule out infection (only for persons who are exhibiting clinical signs and symptoms consistent with Zika virus who had a specimen collected within 3 days of symptom onset). CDC's testing algorithm reflexes to ELISA and PRNT when RT-PCR results are negative, and currently only CDC performs these tests. Local public health jurisdictions have requested that they be notified of negative Zika RT-PCR results, which will allow them to follow up with providers and offer further testing at CDC, where appropriate.

If you have general questions regarding this request, please contact Hanna Oltean at 206-418-5500. For laboratories reporting electronically, technical questions regarding adding Zika results should be directed to the Informatics Customer Support Center, informatics.csc@doh.wa.gov or 1-877-889-3377.

Thank you very much for your help with surveillance and control of this important condition.

Sincerely,

Scott Lindquist, MD, MPH
Washington State Department of Health
State Epidemiologist for Communicable Disease

Kathy Lofy

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State Health Officer