

Zika Virus Specimen Collection, Storing and Shipping

Zika virus testing is available through commercial laboratories and public health laboratories.

Testing through public health laboratories must be **pre-approved by the local health jurisdiction** prior to specimen submission.

See Zika virus testing through the Washington State Public Health Laboratories, steps one and two ([link](#)).

See Zika virus detailed laboratory ordering guidance ([link](#)) to determine appropriate specimens for submission. **Serum and urine are the primary diagnostic specimens for Zika virus infection. For all diagnostic testing conducted on specimen types other than serum, it is also necessary to concurrently obtain a serum specimen for reflex IgM testing.**

Collection and Storing for Approved Specimens

- **Serum** (1 mL minimum, 2 mL preferred) spun down in a red or tiger top (serum separator) tube and transferred to a screw-cap microtube or cryotube and kept cold or frozen to -70°C . **Urine** (>0.5 mL) in a sterile container with a tight fitting screw cap or cryotube and kept cold or frozen to -70°C
- **Whole blood** (>0.5mL) in an EDTA tube kept cold
- **Amniotic fluid** in a sterile container with a tight fitting screw cap or cryotube and kept cold or frozen to -70°C
- **CSF** (>1mL) in a screw-cap microtube or cryotube and kept cold or frozen to -70°C .
- **Tissue** fixed in formalin and stored at ambient temperature

Shipping instructions

Ship approved specimen(s) using Category B labels and packaging in an insulated container with ice packs or on dry ice, if cold or frozen, respectively, with completed [specimen submission form](#) to:

Public Health Laboratories
1610 NE 150th St
Shoreline, WA 98155

Weekday arrivals only.

For more information, go to [Zika Virus for Healthcare Providers and Clinical Labs](#).