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](link).