




Meritus Medical Laboratory, LLC

11110 Medical Campus Road, Suite 230
Hagerstown, MD 21742

Telephone 301.665.4LAB (4522)
Toll-free 800.428.2105
meritusmedlab.com

Director: John G. Newby, M.D., F.C.A.P. Associate Directors: Gary M Mire, M.D., F.C.A.P. Michael J. O'Donoghue, M.D., F.C.A.P.

To: All Medical Staff
From: John G. Newby, MD
MML Medical Director 
Date: 8/17/16
Re: Interim Guidance and Instructions for Zika Virus Infection Testing

Recently there has been a surge of questions regarding the policy and protocol pertaining to the Zika Virus Testing.

Currently only the local health department can facilitate and coordinate the submission of specimens for Zika Virus testing. Your office must call the Washington County Health Department for this testing. Contact information is:

(240) 313-3210
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The Communicable Disease Coordinator at the local health department will assess each request based on history and potential exposure. If deemed appropriate an appointment will be made for your patient to meet with one of the Communicable Disease Coordinators. Specimens for Zika Virus Testing will be obtained by the health department and forwarded to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Laboratory in Baltimore. The DHMH Laboratory will perform testing to include Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) to Detect Zika RNA, as well as Zika (Ig) M and Plaque Reduction Neutralization Test (PRNT) to detect Zika Antibody.

Please feel free to contact me (301) 665-4900 or Chanhpheng Phengvath, Microbiology Supervisor at (301) 665-4936 with any microbiology questions or comments.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.