

## **For California Local Health Department Use**

### **Risk-based testing for local Zika virus transmission**

#### **Provider guidance on testing persons WITHOUT known potential Zika exposure**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends testing certain patients for Zika virus when there has been potential exposure to Zika virus.

**Potential exposure to Zika virus** is defined as one or more of the following:

- Travel to an area with known Zika virus transmission
- Unprotected sexual contact with:
  - A male who lives in or has returned from (in the past 3 months) an area with known Zika virus transmission
  - A female who lives in or has returned from (in the past 8 weeks) an area with known Zika virus transmission
- Although rare, exposure to blood, such as through a needle stick injury

Currently, no known local mosquito-borne transmission events of Zika virus have been detected in California. Risk-based testing could enhance detection of a local transmission event in California.

Local health jurisdictions should consider the following factors when providing advice on testing to healthcare providers for Zika virus infection among patients **WITHOUT** known potential Zika exposure:

- Local vector mosquito prevalence ([CA Aedes distribution map](#))
- Number of confirmed potentially viremic patients in the jurisdiction
- Population risk factors: e.g., types (work, visiting family, etc.) and destinations of travel among overall population and among population subgroups
- Local health department laboratory capacity
- Other local considerations

Patients **WITHOUT** known potential Zika exposure to be potentially considered for testing:

- Patients who live, work or travel to areas where vector mosquitoes have been detected AND have symptoms consistent with Zika virus infection, defined as the following:
  - Maculopapular rash, AND
  - Fever OR joint pain OR conjunctivitis, AND
  - Without an alternate explanation for symptoms
- Pregnant women with a fetus identified with microcephaly or other findings associated with congenital Zika virus infection by ultrasound or at birth
- Infants born with microcephaly or other conditions associated with congenital Zika virus infection (ideally tested at birth)

Local health jurisdictions can contact CDPH for further consultation on providing guidance to healthcare providers at (916) 552-9730 or [VBDS@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:VBDS@cdph.ca.gov).