

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

March 28, 2016

Weekly Zika Virus Update



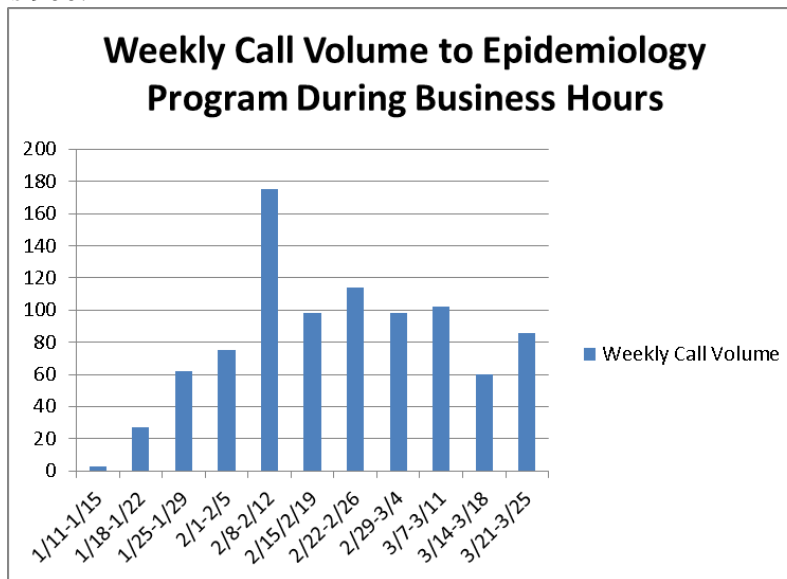
Zika Virus Weekly Update

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

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Report Number: 008

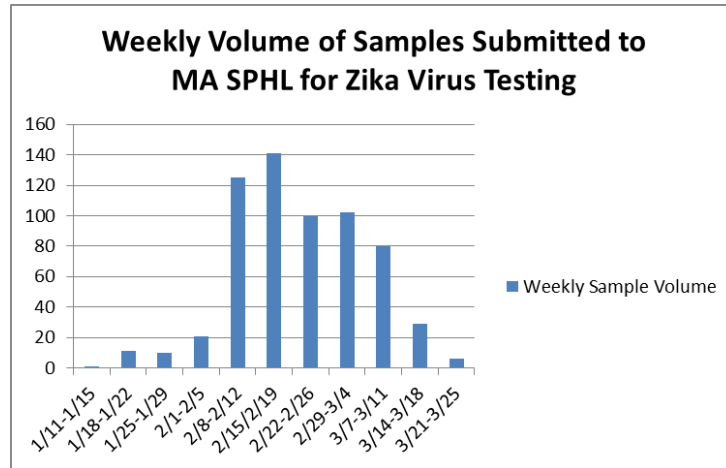
DPH Activities Summary:

- The MA State Public Health Laboratory (MA SPHL) uses a PCR test to detect the genetic material of Zika and chikungunya viruses and the Zika IgM MAC-ELISA to test for antibody response to infection. Additional work is ongoing to reach full testing functionality which will include PCR, ELISA and PRNT (confirmatory) testing for Zika, chikungunya and dengue viruses.
- The Office of Integrated Surveillance and Informatics Services has completed updates to the electronic system that captures and stores reportable disease information to enable complete and accurate recording of Zika virus cases. This system tracks both cases under investigation and confirmed and probable cases once laboratory testing has been completed. Patient data is being reviewed and updated retrospectively.
- The 24/7 Epidemiology line has been fielding calls from clinicians, local health, and concerned residents regarding Zika virus and its public health implications in Massachusetts. The current weekly call volume regarding Zika is shown below. Total calls received during business hours since January 15 is 900.



Laboratory Testing Summary:

- The MA SPHL has tested 14 samples (11 sera and 3 urines) from 11 patients by PCR and 54 samples from 54 patients using the IgM ELISA test. Positive PCR tests are confirmatory while positive IgM tests require further testing by PRNT, currently being done by CDC, to confirm.
- By tomorrow, the MA SPHL will be caught up with testing of all serology samples by Zika IgM received since March 15, 2016.



New or Revised State Guidance:

Updated guidance is being planned to be released once the MA SPHL reaches full testing functionality.

National Activities

CDC Updates

Publications:

- [Estimating Contraceptive Needs and Increasing Access to Contraception in Response to the Zika Virus Disease Outbreak — Puerto Rico, 2016](#)
- [Update: Interim Guidance for Health Care Providers Caring for Women of Reproductive Age with Possible Zika Virus Exposure — United States, 2016](#)
- [Update: Interim Guidance for Prevention of Sexual Transmission of Zika Virus — United States, 2016](#)

Guidance: [Zika Communication Planning Guide for States](#)

Zika National Meeting:

Staff from DPH, the Department of Agricultural Resources, and the Boston Public Health Commission have been invited to attend CDC’s April 1 Zika Action Plan Summit in Atlanta. Interested individuals that are not attending may [register](#) to attend via webinar. <http://www.cdc.gov/zap/index.html>

Educational materials:

Fact sheets and posters are available in English and Spanish; a few are also available in Portuguese. These are all available at: [Fact Sheets and Posters | Zika virus | CDC](#)

For further information regarding Zika go to:

<http://www.mass.gov/dph/zika>

Please share with colleagues and throughout your agency, organization and/or associations. If you have comments, questions or feedback, contact us at (617) 983-6800 or by email at DPH.EmergencyPreparedness@state.ma.us.