

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

November 14, 2016

Bi-Weekly Zika Virus Update



Zika Virus Bi-Weekly Update

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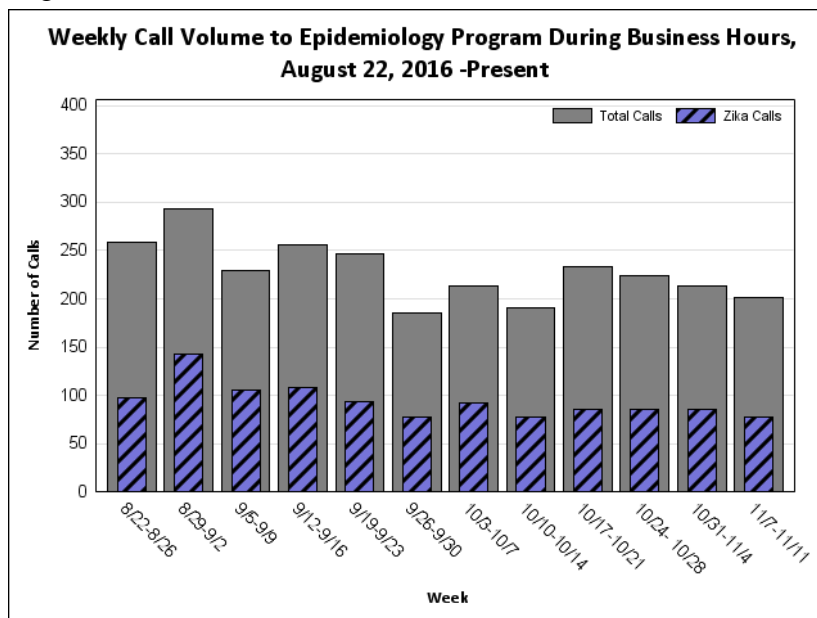
November 14, 2016
Report Number: 038

Significant Updates:

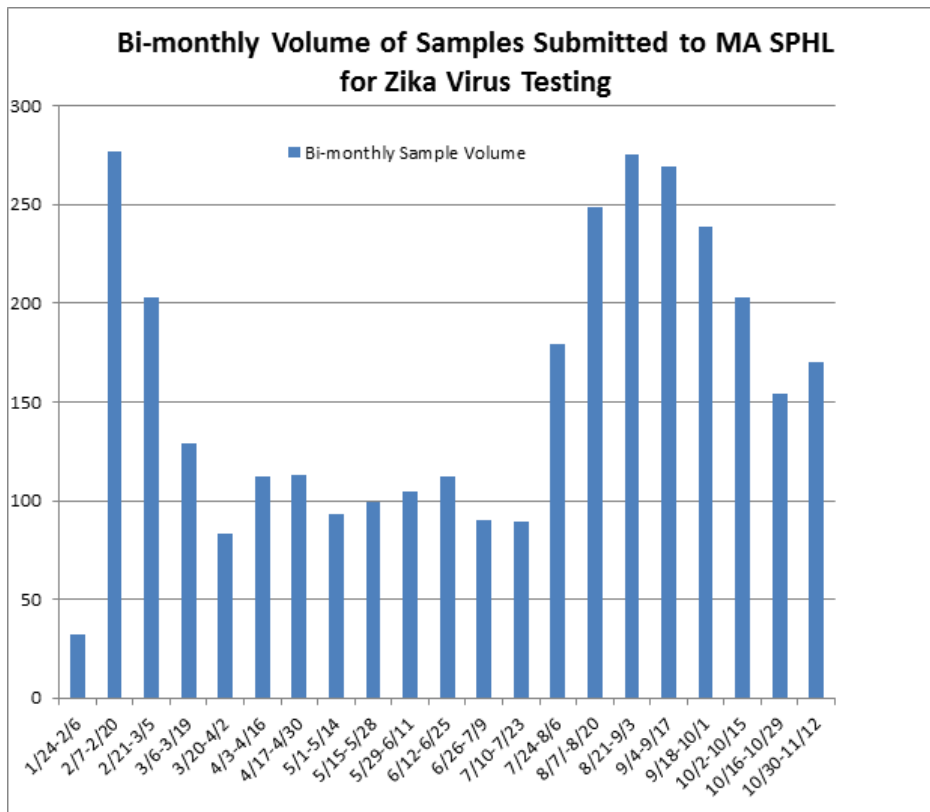
- Clinical trials on two different types of Zika virus vaccines have begun by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the Department of Defense. If these initial trials are successful, additional clinical trials are expected to be conducted in areas with significant Zika virus activity. At this time, widespread public availability would not be anticipated for 2-3 years.

MDPH Activities Summary:

- All questions related to Zika virus testing requests should be directed to the 24/7 Epidemiology line, 617-983-6800.
- The [MDPH Zika Virus web page](#) continues to be a resource for individuals looking for information about Zika virus. The web page includes a link to a 30 minute webinar “Zika Virus and the Massachusetts Response” which can be found under the subheading, Information for Healthcare and Public Health Partners, and the most current Zika Virus Clinical Advisory and Specimen Collection, Storage and Shipment for Zika Virus Testing.
- MDPH is working with a vendor to develop new outreach materials aimed particularly at populations that travel frequently between Massachusetts and places where active Zika transmission is occurring. Initial materials should be ready shortly as many people start to make their holiday travel plans.
- MDPH Epidemiology Staff continue to receive calls from clinicians, local health, and concerned residents regarding Zika virus and its public health implications in Massachusetts. The weekly call volume for the last 3 months regarding Zika is shown below.



- The MA State Public Health Laboratory (MA SPHL) uses a PCR test to detect the genetic material of Zika, dengue and chikungunya viruses and the Zika IgM MAC-ELISA to test for antibody response to infection. PRNT (confirmatory) testing is available on specimens that are IgM positive.
- Staff members of the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences and the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition Birth Defects Surveillance, and the Boston Public Health Commission, are collecting data on women and infants meeting criteria for enrollment in the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.



- **All specimens for testing pregnant women for Zika virus should be sent to the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory.** For individuals not meeting the criteria for testing at the MA SPHL, providers should ensure that they are requesting the appropriate test (PCR or IgM ELISA) depending upon the presence or absence of symptoms and timing of specimen draw relative to illness onset or last possible exposure. Because the duration of viremia is quite brief in most instances, testing using both test types may be indicated.

Laboratory Testing Summary:

- Over the last two weeks, the MA SPHL tested 172 samples (101 serum, 71 urine, 0 CSF, 2 amniotic fluid) from 89 patients by PCR and 77 samples from 77 patients using the IgM ELISA test. Positive PCR tests are confirmatory while positive IgM tests require further confirmatory PRNT testing by the MA SPHL.

New or Revised State Guidance: None

National Activities

CDC Updates:

- [Case Counts in the US](#)

Publications:

- [Incidence of Zika Virus Disease by Age and Sex — Puerto Rico, November 1, 2015–October 20, 2016](#)
- [Potential for Zika virus introduction and transmission in resource-limited countries in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region: a modelling study](#)
- [Zika virus infection damages the testes in mice](#)
- [Neutralizing human antibodies prevent Zika virus replication and fetal disease in mice](#)

Guidance:

- [Areas with Zika](#)

Educational materials:

- [Zika Prevention Takes a Community](#)
- [Mosquito Control: Do Your Part](#)
- [Zika can pass through sex](#)
- [Protecting Your Pregnancy from Zika](#)

For further information regarding Zika go to:

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

Please share with colleagues and throughout your agency, organization and/or associations. If you have comments, questions or feedback, contact us at the 24/7 Epi Line (617) 983-6800 or by email at

DPH.EmergencyPreparedness@state.ma.us