



Public Health
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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To: North Carolina Local Health Directors
North Carolina Health Care Providers

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Subject: **Zika Pregnancy Registry (1 page)**

This memo is intended to provide information to NC clinicians regarding the US Zika Pregnancy Registry.

Summary

Zika is a mosquito-borne virus that is currently causing outbreaks in many countries. Zika virus can be passed from a pregnant woman to her fetus, and infection during pregnancy can cause microcephaly and other birth defects. Despite these observations, very little is known regarding the risks of Zika virus infection during pregnancy.

Zika virus disease and congenital Zika virus infection are reportable conditions in North Carolina and nationally notifiable to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC has created the Zika Pregnancy Registry to ensure complete and accurate case reporting and to develop more comprehensive information on the effects of Zika infections during pregnancy.

Zika Pregnancy Registry:

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) is currently working with CDC to enroll all pregnant women with positive or indeterminate Zika virus test results in the Pregnancy Registry. NC DPH staff will contact the medical providers of these pregnant women and their infants to request completion of case report forms to collect clinical information about the mother during pregnancy, laboratory and prenatal testing, and clinical information about the child at birth and through the first year of the child's life.

Healthcare providers will be contacted once during each trimester of the pregnancy, at delivery, and following routine health examinations of the infant performed at approximately 2, 6, and 12 months of age.

CDC recommends a physical exam and collection of placenta and cord blood samples for Zika virus testing of the infant at delivery. Testing of these samples will occur at no cost to the patient. Please refer to the most recent NC Zika Provider Guidance Memo (<http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/zika/>) for specimen collection and shipping guidance.

Per NC General Statute 130A-144(b), health information will be collected and submitted to the Pregnancy Registry as part of enhanced surveillance. NC DPH has developed an acknowledgement form to assist pediatricians with explaining the Pregnancy Registry and infant follow-up throughout the first year of the child's life. Confidentiality of this information is protected under North Carolina communicable disease laws.

Surveillance and Reporting:

Physicians and laboratories are required to report suspected or confirmed Zika virus infections. Please contact the Communicable Disease Branch at 919-733-3419 or your local health department if Zika virus infection is suspected and for questions related to the Pregnancy Registry.

Updated information and guidance are available from CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/registry.html>.

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