



Office of the Medical Health Officers
204 – 310 Idylwyld Drive North
Saskatoon, SK S7L 0Z2
Phone: 655-4338 Fax: 655-4414

February 11, 2016

Attention Health Care Providers:

**Re: Temporary Guidance on Zika Testing from the
Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory (SDCL)**

The symptoms of Zika are similar to those of dengue and chikungunya, diseases spread through the same mosquitoes that transmit Zika. Individuals in Saskatchewan have been asked to see their healthcare provider if develop symptoms compatible with the disease and have visited an area where Zika is found.

As a healthcare provider may order specialized blood tests to look for Zika or other similar viruses like dengue or chikungunya; below is an example of some situations which is not comprehensive and may change as more is learnt about this outbreak.

Health care providers should offer laboratory testing for Zika virus to:

- Pregnant women who traveled to an area with Zika virus transmission while pregnant, and who develop compatible symptoms during or within 2 weeks of travel to an area with Zika virus transmission.
- Neonates with microcephaly or intracranial calcifications born to women who traveled to an area with Zika virus transmission while pregnant.
- All persons who traveled to an area with Zika virus transmission who present with Guillian-Barré syndrome within two weeks of return.

Providers should refer to the guidance attached, to collect and submit specimens to the Saskatchewan Disease Control Laboratory for testing. Updated information will be posted on the SHR Website as received.

Sincerely,

Original signed

Dr. Johnmark Opondo
M.B., ChB., M.PH.
Deputy Medical Health Officer

JMO/lm

Healthiest people ~ Healthiest communities ~ Exceptional service