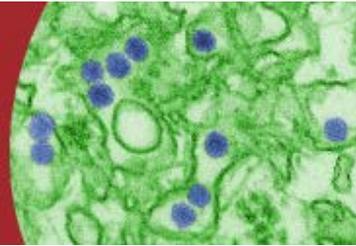




Zika Virus Outbreak Response



Summer is Coming: Supporting Zika Response is Critical

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) urges Congress to act now to fulfill the White House's request for \$1.9 billion in emergency funding for Zika response, and commends the Senate for approving the amount in the compromise package offered by Senators Roy Blunt and Patty Murray. Agreement on any amount less than that provided by the Senate will not provide the protection from Zika that the American people deserve.

What is Zika?

Zika is a virus that is transmitted to people through the bite of an infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which is the same mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever viruses. The recent re-emergence of Zika in the Americas and its link to microcephaly in babies has placed health systems across the globe on high alert. As the summer months and mosquito season approach in the US, it is increasingly likely that Zika will be locally transmitted in [states that have the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito](#). Public health laboratories have provided diagnostic testing since early January for US travelers that have contracted Zika abroad, and are anticipating a surge in testing needs as local transmission begins this summer.

What is a public health laboratory?

The nation's network of state and local public health laboratories work to detect, identify and respond to emerging threats to the public's health.

In the current Zika response, public health laboratories and their support organization, APHL, are:

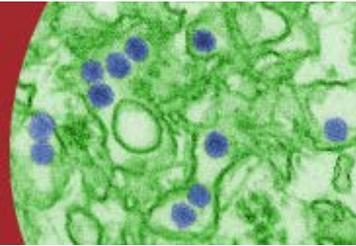
- Providing two types of diagnostic tests which were deployed through the [Laboratory Response Network](#), a molecular test (rRT-PCR) that detects the direct presence of Zika virus and a serology test (IgM ELISA) that detects antibodies produced in response to an infection
- Coordinating closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure testing guidance is relevant to the evolving situation
- Preparing diagnostic testing surge capacity plans as the summer months approach and mosquitoes in the southern US are expected to begin transmitting Zika
- Surveying mosquito populations for the emergence of Zika locally and to assist in local mosquito control efforts

What is the current testing capacity in the U.S.?

- CDC IgM MAC-ELISA: 51 laboratories (public health and military) received the MAC-ELISA from CDC. 31 of these 51 laboratories have successfully completed the verification panel for the CDC MAC-ELISA.
- CDC Trioplex rRT-PCR: 100 (public health and military) laboratories received the Trioplex rRT-PCR from CDC. 60 laboratories have successfully completed the verification panel for the CDC Trioplex rRT-PCR.



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Why is additional federal funding needed?

As state and local public health laboratories increase testing for Zika with limited staff and funds and anticipate that the demand for testing will only increase when local transmission begins in the US this summer, Congressional action to pass emergency supplemental appropriations to support Zika response is critical. Emergency funding will allow public health laboratories to be fully prepared, staffed and equipped to meet the nation's testing demand and provide timely, reliable diagnostic results to the public.

Additional Resources

[APHL Zika Website](#)

[CDC Zika Website](#)

[What is an Emerging Infectious Disease?](#)

For more information, please contact APHL's Public Policy Program:

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