**Department of Virology, Medical Research Institute**

**Zika virus infection Testing**

**Brief guideline for send - out samples, V.2**

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|  | **Description** | |
| **Criteria for testing** | 1. Signs and symptoms of zika virus with travel history to high risk countries 2. Pregnant females with travel history to high risk countries | |
| **Request** | Very brief history is mandatory highlighting   1. clinical features: acute fever, rash, conjunctivitis, headache, myalgia, arthralgia 2. **travel history to high risk countries (areas)** 3. day of illness that the blood/urine was collected for zika infection testing 4. any other investigations done for viral infections: dengue, chikungunya   Fill all the other fields in the request form very clearly. | |
| **Test Method** | 1.Molecular Testing(Zika -RNA detection by Real time PCR assay, qualitative assay) | 1.Serological Testing  (Zika IgM antibody ELISA) |
| **Time of Sample collection** | **1.Blood** sample should be collected within first 07 days of illness  **2.Urine** sample should be collected within first 14 days of illness  Late blood/ urine samples should not be accepted for the zika virus PCR test | **1.Blood** sample should be collected after 2-12 weeks of illness/exposure |
| **Sample type/ Volume/ Container** | **Blood** in EDTA tube or plain sterile plastic disposable (red top) tube,  minimum 2mL volume  Heparinized or very low volume samples  (< 2 mL) may not be accepted  **Urine** - sterile plastic vial with screw cap or sterile plastic screw cap bottle, 2mL volume | **Blood** in plain plastic disposable (red top) tube,  minimum 2mL volume  Container should be properly labeled. |
| **Transport and short term storage** | Specimen should be transported to the laboratory at 2 to 8°C as soon as possible,  if in delay they may be stored in the refrigerator at 2 to 8°C up to 2 days before being tested | |
| **Test Availability** | The assay is performed depending on the requirement | |

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

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