**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
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| **Request** | Very brief history is mandatory highlighting1. 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 illnessLate 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 volumeHeparinized 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 volumeContainer 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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