

### Triplex PCR and Serology Specimen Submission Guidelines

(Subject to changes when new information becomes available. Updated on 8/30/16)

<p><b>Important Information on Specimen Submission</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>One form must be filled out correctly with all required information and accompany the specimen(s). Symptom onset date must be filled out: either a specific date or asymptomatic.</b></li> <li>• <b>HHD laboratory currently performs only rRT-PCR testing for Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya virus.</b></li> <li>• <b>Note: Day 0 is day of symptom onset</b></li> </ul> <p><b>For specimens collected Day 0-13 (&lt;14 Days) after symptom onset:</b> Submit <b>TWO</b> serum specimens (1-2 mL each) <b>AND</b> one urine (1-2 mL) specimen. For one serum specimen and the urine specimen, fill out the <a href="#">HHD Zika Virus Specimen Submission Forms</a> (one form for each specimen). For the second serum specimen, fill out <a href="#">Texas DSHS G2V Form AND Zika Testing Supplemental Information Form</a> (refer to the information in the second row on how to obtain the forms). Ship all three specimens to Houston Health Department (HHD) Laboratory. HHD laboratory will perform PCR testing on one serum specimen and the urine specimen. If either is positive, no further testing is required. If both are negative, the other serum specimen submitted will be forwarded to Texas DSHS Laboratory for IgM serology testing.</p> <p><b>For specimens collected on and after Day 14 (≥ 14 Days) after symptom onset:</b> Submit one serum (3-5 mL) specimen along with <a href="#">Texas DSHS G2V Form AND Zika Testing Supplemental Information Form</a> and ship <b>directly to the Texas DSHS laboratory</b>. Refer to DSHS “Chikungunya, Dengue, and Zika PCR and Serology Specimen Criteria” (link is provided in the second row).</p>
<p><b>Serum Specimen Collection and Handling</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect specimens as soon as possible after onset of symptoms.</li> <li>• Collect at least 5 mL blood each in TWO red, gold, or tiger top blood collection tubes. Centrifuge according to collection tube manufacturer’s guidelines to separate the serum from the red blood cells (clot).</li> <li>• Transfer the serum from the blood collection tubes into separate serum transport tubes and <b>label with patient information</b>. The second sample will be forwarded to DSHS should additional testing be required.</li> <li>• Specimens should be placed in a biohazard bag and stored as indicated below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Specimens that are shipped the same day of collection and will arrive at the lab within 48 hours of collection can be stored at 4°C and should be shipped with cold packs.</li> <li>➢ Specimens that will arrive at the lab more than 48 hours after collection should be stored frozen (-20 °C) and shipped on dry ice.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Specimen Shipping</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport specimens to the laboratory as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Do not ship on Fridays or before government holidays (except in cases where prior arrangements have been discussed).</li> <li>• Ship specimens Monday-Thursday by overnight delivery.</li> <li>• Serum samples collected on Friday-Sunday should be centrifuged, transferred into a serum transport tube, and frozen (-20°C). All other specimen types should also be frozen.</li> <li>• <b>The name and patient information on the tubes MUST match the forms EXACTLY.</b></li> <li>• The submitter is responsible for transport to the lab. Specimens may be delivered or shipped to the physical address: <b>Houston Health Department Laboratory, 2252 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, Texas 77030.</b> <b>REMINDER: Specimens should be packaged/labeled/shipped according to regulations for UN3373 Biological Substance, Category B. Additionally, frozen specimens should be packaged/labeled/shipped according to UN1845, Class 9 regulations for dry ice.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Information on CDC Triplex rRT-PCR EUA and Fact Sheets</b></p>	<p>CDC Triplex Real-time RT-PCR Assay, Instruction for Use:  <a href="http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/UCM491592.pdf">http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/UCM491592.pdf</a>  Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) letter:  <a href="http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/UCM491587.pdf">http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/UCM491587.pdf</a>  Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers:  <a href="http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/UCM491588.pdf">http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/UCM491588.pdf</a>  Fact Sheet for Patients:  <a href="http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/UCM491590.pdf">http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/UCM491590.pdf</a>  Fact Sheet for Pregnant Women:  <a href="http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/UCM491591.pdf">http://www.fda.gov/downloads/MedicalDevices/Safety/EmergencySituations/UCM491591.pdf</a></p>