



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

MARISSA J. LEVINE, MD, MPH, FAAFP  
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

PO BOX 2448  
RICHMOND, VA 23218

TTY 7-1-1 OR  
1-800-828-1120

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Dear Colleague:

Thank you for all your efforts to learn about and prevent the impact of Zika in the Commonwealth. In our [August 2016 Dear Colleague Letter](#), we provided an overview of recent Zika-related clinical guidance revisions. Since that communication, some new patient benefits, guidance revisions and research findings have been released. They are summarized below for your review and consideration.

**[Medicaid and Insect Repellent](#)** On August 22, 2016, the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health, announced that **DMAS will now cover insect repellent for Medicaid members under the pharmacy benefit with a prescription.**

**[Update: Interim Guidance for the Evaluation and Management of Infants with Possible Congenital Zika Virus Infection-US, August 2016.](#)** (MMWR. 19 August 2016. Vol. 65)

- Recommends that initial Zika testing samples should be collected directly from the infant in the first two days of life; **testing of newborn cord blood is no longer recommended.**

**[Likely Sexual Transmission of Zika Virus from a Man with No Symptoms of Infection — Maryland, 2016](#)** (MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2016; Vol. 65)

- Providers should request Zika virus testing for any patients with illness compatible with Zika virus disease who have had sexual exposure without barrier devices to a partner who traveled to an area with active Zika virus transmission, regardless of whether the returning traveler reports symptoms.

**[Hearing Loss in Infants with Microcephaly and Evidence of Congenital Zika Virus Infection — Brazil, November 2015–May 2016](#)** (MMWR. 30 August 2016. Vol. 65)

- Among 70 children with microcephaly and lab evidence of congenital Zika infection, the prevalence of sensorineural hearing loss was 5.8%. **Children with evidence of Zika virus infection and normal initial screening tests should receive regular follow-up, as hearing loss can be delayed.**

Thank you for providing your patients with information about the actions they can take to prevent Zika Virus Infection. Please visit the [VDH Zika Virus website](#) for both clinical information and [tools that you may use to provide guidance to your patients](#). You may also visit the CDC website for additional resources and support for [families](#) and for [healthcare providers](#) caring for newborns affected by Zika.

Sincerely,

Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH, FAAFP

State Health Commissioner

This letter is available on the VDH [Resources for Health Care Professionals](#) web page.