Zika Virus

General:

Zika virus is a member of Flavivirus and *Aedes mosquitoes* acts as a vector. So far the reservoir of Zika virus (ZIKV) is unknown. There are 2 types of Aedes mosquito capable of transmitting the Zika virus. In most cases, Zika spreads through the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in tropical and subtropical regions. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito does not survive in cooler climate temperatures. The *Aedes albopictus* mosquito can also transmit the virus. This mosquito can hibernate and survive cooler temperature regions.

Zika virus usually causes mild illness; with symptoms appearing a few days after a person is bitten by an infected mosquito. Most people with Zika virus disease will get a slight fever and rash. Others may also get conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, and feel tired. The symptoms usually last 2 to 7 days.

Health authorities are currently investigating a potential link between Zika virus in pregnant women and microcephaly in their babies. The greatest risk of microcephaly and malformations appears to be associated with infection during the first trimester of pregnancy.

The following tests are available:

- **Zika Virus IgG / IgM**

Material:	1 ml serum
TAT:	7-10 days*
Method:	EIA
Units:	Index
Ref.- range:	<0.8 negative
	0.8 - <1.1 borderline
	>= 1.1 positive

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- **Zika Virus RNA, EDTA blood**

  Material: 3 ml EDTA Blood
  TAT: 7-10 days*
  Method: PCR
  Note: Will be detected upto 1 week after symptoms

- **Zika Virus RNA, CSF**

  Material: 2 ml CSF
  TAT: 7-10 days*
  Method: PCR
  Note: Will be detected upto 1 week after symptoms

- **Zika Virus RNA,urine**

  Material: 10 ml urine
  TAT: 7-10 days*
  Method: PCR
  Note: Will be detected upto 4 week after symptoms

For complete list of laboratory test offered at Freiburg Medical Laboratory, please visit http://www.fml-dubai.com/parameter-listings/