

Section: UTMB On-line Documentation	01.16 - Policy
Subject: Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures	5/30/25 - Revised
Topic: 01.16 – Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Zika Virus Infections	2016 - Author

01.16 - Prevention of Healthcare-Associated Zika Virus Infections

Purpose	To facilitate safe care of all patients presenting themselves to the University of Texas Medical Branch Hospitals with known or suspected Zika Virus infection.
Audience	All persons who are present in the delivery room for all UTMB hospitals. This protocol does not apply to other patient care settings.
Policy	<p>Contact Precautions should be used in the Labor and Delivery department for all persons present in the delivery room for patients with diagnosed or suspected Zika virus infection. Suspected cases are those whose serologic or PCR test results are not available but have the history of at least 3 Zika symptoms in the previous 4 weeks or anytime during pregnancy, and risk of exposure (eg. travel to Zika countries or sexual exposure to a confirmed case; or fetus/newborn is found to have microcephaly).</p> <p>In all other healthcare settings, standard precautions will apply. Healthcare workers who are pregnant should not provide care during delivery for patients with diagnosed or suspected Zika virus infection.</p>

Precautions for Vaginal Delivery or Cesarean Section Delivery

- I. For all vaginal deliveries and cesarean section deliveries, the following personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn:
 - A. Two pairs of sterile gloves
 - B. Impermeable sterile gown
 - C. Surgical mask
 - D. Goggles or chin length face shield
 - E. Knee-high impermeable shoe covers
- II. In addition to the use of PPE by healthcare personnel, placement of disposable absorbent material on the floor around the procedure and delivery area to absorb fluid can reduce the risk for splash exposure to body fluids.
 - A. When the delivery has been completed, the disposable material on the floor should be removed by personnel who are wearing appropriate PPE.

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1. Two pairs of gloves
 2. Impermeable gown
 3. Surgical mask
 4. Goggles or chin length face shield
 5. Knee-high impermeable shoe covers
- B. The floor should then be cleaned and disinfected with a hospital grade disinfectant.

References

1. Olson CK, Iwamoto M, Perkins KM, et al. Preventing Transmission of Zika Virus in Labor and Delivery Settings Through Implementation of Standard Precautions – United States, 2016. MMWR Morbid Mortal Wkly Rep 2016;65: 290-292.
2. Interim Guidance for Protecting Workers from Occupational Exposure to Zika Virus. Fact Sheet OSHA NIOSH 2016;1-7.