

State expands free Zika virus testing

Pregnant women without symptoms are eligible

Free advanced testing for Zika virus infection has been expanded by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). Now pregnant women without symptoms, who travelled to the areas affected by the Zika virus, can take advantage of this free testing. Previously, only pregnant women with symptoms and a travel history to the areas were eligible.

“This expanded testing makes good clinical sense,” said Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, Putnam County’s interim health commissioner. “Because symptoms of Zika are usually mild they may go unnoticed. For pregnant women and their developing babies the results could be severe, given the link to microcephaly.”

Testing continues for all oth-

ers with symptoms who have travelled to the affected areas. The procedure to be tested remains the same: residents should visit their personal health care provider, who will work with the Putnam County Department of Health (PC-DOH) to facilitate the proper testing procedure through the NYSDOH laboratory at Wadsworth Center. Wadsworth is

one of only three state laboratories in the country equipped to perform the screening and confirmatory tests of Zika antibodies and other related viruses. The NYSDOH Zika information line is 1-888-364-4723.

This public health emergency continues to evolve. The CDC is now recommending that pregnant women abstain from sex or utilize protection for the

duration of their pregnancies, if their male partner has traveled to or lives in an area with active Zika transmission.

This article was provided by the Putnam County Department of Health. Further information on Zika virus is available at www.nyc.gov/travel/diseases.

OBITUARIES

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naval, Fla. in 1952. While attending University of Florida, Werner met his future wife, Betty. They were married in 1963 in Atlanta and afterwards took a

three-month honeymoon around the world. Werner worked at a missile tracking station on Ascension Island for Pan American in Cape Canaveral, Fla., as a systems analyst for TRW in Washington D.C., and then was hired by IBM as a manager in White

Plains. His wife Betty and he started Our Montessori School in 1972, and in 1986 Werner took early retirement from IBM in order to devote his energy full time to the school.

An avid hiker and sailor, Werner could often be found on his Hobie Cat on the Hudson or hiking the trails in the mountains along the river. More recently he turned his keen observation of nature and people towards writing, and a book of his memoirs, “From Peenemünde to Cape Canaveral, and Beyond” is due to be published and released on Amazon shortly.

Werner will be remembered, among other things, for his sense of humor, philosophical and positive outlook on life, and kindness towards other people.

Werner is survived by his loving wife, Betty; his daughter,

Christy, son-in-law, Helmut, and grandchildren, Oliver and Eliza, of Santa Fe, N.M.; and his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Fran and Tom Patterson, nephew, Thomas Ira Patterson, great nephew, Derek Patterson, and great great niece, Paisley Patterson, of Atlanta.

A memorial service is planned for Mr. Hengst this Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Overlook Lodge, 55 Hessian Drive, Highland Falls, in Bear Mountain State Park, from 1 to 4 p.m. There be a 45-minute memorial followed by buffet lunch. RSVP by emailing chengst@nets.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the United Latin American Pentecostal Church, in honor of those who helped so much to care for him, 110 Main St. Brewster, NY 10589.

Olga DeLuca

Olga DeLuca, of Carmel (formerly of Mahopac and DeLuca Farms) passed away Feb. 3, at the age of 100. Olga DeLuca was born April 12, 1915, in Olive, N.Y., the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Augusto Comilloni.

Mrs. DeLuca is survived by her two children Phillip DeLuca, Thomasina Christiansen, five grandchildren AnnMarie Rameriz, Michael Christiansen, Lisa Escaravage, Robin Cable, Kathy Bucey. She also has seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. She was predeceased by her husband Michael John DeLuca and her daughter Elizabeth DeLuca.

Funeral services were held Feb. 8, at St. James the Apostle Church.



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