
Date: December 15, 2010

To: Canadian Blood Services (Alberta), Infectious Disease Specialists, Laboratory Directors and Managers, Neurologists and Transplant Services

From: ProvLab

Re: West Nile Virus (WNV) Diagnostic Testing Update

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West Nile Virus (WNV) Diagnostic Testing Update

Seasonal testing for West Nile Virus (WNV), including the work-up of encephalitis and pre-transplant assessment, ended on November 1, 2010. WNV testing by serology and molecular assays remains available by specific request, provided that a qualifying reason is given (typically travel in an endemic area where the virus is currently actively transmitted).

The 2010 WNV season in Alberta was very quiet, with only one case confirmed by laboratory testing (sero-conversion). It is unclear exactly where the patient was infected as the diagnosis was made shortly after the patient returned from out of the province.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by Dr. Marie Louie, Acting Medical Director, ProvLab.