
Date: May 29, 2014

To: Managers, Coordinators and Medical Directors of Organ and Tissue Programs;
Transplant Physicians and Surgeons, Canadian Blood Services

From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: West Nile Virus Screening 2014

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

West Nile virus screening commences June 1, 2014.

Why this is important:

- West Nile virus (WNV) screening is available routinely from June 1 – October 30 for organ and tissue donors.
- WNV screening outside this time period is available only for those with a relevant travel history.
- WNV testing¹ will proceed in 2014 as in previous years, using nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs) undertaken locally (by RT-PCR for organ donors) or by referral to Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Canada (Health Canada approved TMA assay for eye and tissue donors).
- In the case of testing referred out to Mount Sinai, ProvLab will retain residual sample locally for any necessary follow up testing.

Action Required:

Please ensure sufficient sample volume is submitted for all necessary NAAT screening (EDTA blood) as well as other screening (serum separator tubes).

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

The Virologist-on-call at

- Edmonton Site – Phone: 780-407-7121 or 780-407-8822 (ask for the Virologist-on-Call)
- Calgary Site – Phone: 403-944-1200 (ask for the Virologist-on-Call)

Associated Documents:

¹ <http://www.provlab.ab.ca/guide-to-services.pdf>

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:
Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical / Scientific Director, ProvLab**