

**Date:** June 4, 2013

**To:** Alberta Health, Laboratory Directors and Managers, Medical Officers of Health, Physicians

**From:** Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

**Re:** West Nile Virus Diagnostic Testing – Update for 2013

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**Key Message:**

West Nile virus diagnostic testing commences June 1, 2013.

**Why this is important:**

- West Nile virus (WNV) acute diagnostic testing is available routinely from June 1 – October 30.
- WNV testing outside this time period is available only for those with a travel history in endemic areas.
- WNV testing will proceed in 2013 as in previous years, using nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs) and serology (IgM, IgG and avidity testing).
- For CSF samples, testing for WNV is available June 1 – October 30 if it is clearly requested on the requisition.

**Action Required:**

The following documents will provide more detailed information:

- How to Interpret West Nile Virus Test Results 2012 update (no change in 2013)
- Arbovirus History Form

The above listed documents may be found under “West Nile Virus” at:

- [www.provlab.ab.ca](http://www.provlab.ab.ca) (under Services/ Education) or
- [www.albertahealthservices.ca/7818.asp](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/7818.asp) (Laboratory Bulletins 2012)

**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)

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

**Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical / Scientific Director, ProvLab**