
Date: May 29, 2014

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 2014

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message:

West Nile virus diagnostic testing commences June 1, 2014.

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 2014 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 2014)
- Arbovirus History Form

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

- www.provlab.ab.ca (under Services/ Education) or
- www.albertahealthservices.ca/3290.asp (Laboratory Bulletins 2014)

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