

**Date:** May 31, 2011

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

**From:** PLPH (ProvLab)

**Re:** West Nile Virus Diagnostic Testing – Update for 2011

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**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

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**West Nile virus diagnostic testing 2011 commences 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011**

West Nile virus (WNV) acute diagnostic testing is available routinely from June 1<sup>st</sup> – October 30<sup>th</sup> (outside this time period, testing is available only for those with a travel history in endemic areas). Such testing will proceed in 2011 as in previous years, using nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs) and serology (IgM, IgG and avidity testing). Please note that for CSF samples, testing for WNV is available during that period if it is clearly requested on the requisition.

The following documents will provide more detailed information:

- WNV Screening 2011 Lab Bulletin (attached)
- How to Interpret West Nile Virus Test Results 2011 update (attached)
- Arbovirus History Form (attached)

The above listed documents can also be found under “West Nile Virus” at [www.provlab.ab.ca](http://www.provlab.ab.ca) (under Services/ Education).

For further advice and consultation please contact the Virologist-on-call (VOC):

Edmonton Site – Phone: 780-407-8822 (UAH Switchboard) or  
780-407-7121 (Laboratory - ask for VOC)  
Calgary Site – Phone: 403-944-1200 (ask for VOC)

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