

Date: June 1, 2012

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

From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: West Nile Virus Diagnostic Testing – Update for 2012

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

West Nile virus diagnostic testing 2012 commences 1st June 2012.

West Nile virus (WNV) acute diagnostic testing is available routinely from June 1st - October 30th (outside this time period, testing is available only for those with a travel history in endemic areas). Such testing will proceed in 2012 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:

- How to Interpret West Nile Virus Test Results 2012 update
- 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 2012)

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. Greg Tyrrell, Acting Medical Director, ProvLab