
Date: June 1, 2012

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

From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: West Nile Virus Screening – 2012

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

West Nile virus screening commences 1st June 2012

West Nile virus (WNV) screening is available routinely from June 1st – October 30th for organ and tissue donors (outside this time period, testing is available only for those with a relevant travel history). WNV testing will proceed in 2012 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. Please ensure sufficient sample volume is submitted for all necessary NAAT screening (EDTA blood) as well as other screening (serum separator tubes).

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