

MLS Laboratory Update: Increased Turn Around Time for West Nile Virus EIA results

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

Purpose of this Message:

This message is to alert laboratories of an anticipated increase in turnaround time for West Nile virus (WNV) IgM Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA) results and an early anticipated end date for WNV EIA testing for the 2022 arbovirus season.

Action Item:

None

Background:

None

Additional Information:

Due to supply chain constraints, the Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Laboratory will start testing for WNV IgM by EIA every two weeks instead of every week. Additionally, we kindly ask for submitting laboratories to note on all arbovirus submissions if WNV serology or antibody testing has been completed at your facility or at another facility. Testing for WNV IgM by EIA will not be performed at MDH-PHL if already completed by another facility in order to conserve assay reagents and supplies. MDH will still test for other arbovirus assays, such as Jamestown Canyon and Powassan viruses and specimens will continue to be forwarded to CDC for applicable confirmatory testing.

All WNV EIA testing at MDH-PHL will be discontinued for the summer arbovirus season approximately at the end of September 2022. Specimens received after September 30 will not be tested for WNV by EIA.

Questions:

For specimen or assay-specific questions, please contact:
Scott Cunningham, Virology Unit Supervisor at Scott.Cunningham@state.mn.us

For case reporting or arbovirus information:
Vector-borne Disease Epidemiology at 651-201-5414

Thank you for your partnership and continued arboviral disease surveillance efforts in Minnesota.

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PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO ALL APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL WITHIN YOUR INSTITUTION AND HEALTH SYSTEM

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5200.