

June 1, 2017

Health Advisory

Free West Nile Virus Testing Offered Through September 30, 2017

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) offers free human West Nile Virus (WNV) testing through September 30, 2017, on specimens from patients meeting any one of the following criteria:

Criteria I – Neuroinvasive Disease

- Signs of brain dysfunction (e.g., altered mental status, confusion, coma, disorientation, stupor)
- Signs of other neurologic dysfunction (e.g., stiff neck, sensory deficits, abnormal reflexes or movements, paralysis, cerebrospinal fluid pleocytosis)

Criteria II – Non-neuroinvasive Disease

- The presence of fever (chills) as reported by the patient or health care provider and at least one additional symptom such as:
 - Headache, myalgia, arthralgia, malaise, skin rash, photophobia, lymphadenopathy, vomiting, vertigo, paresis, etc.

WNV IgM antibody testing is provided at the Division of Laboratory Services (DLS) and will be conducted on serum samples (at least 2 mL of serum is required). WNV testing will be performed at the DLS on Mondays and Wednesdays; as sample submission increases, additional days will be added to the testing regime. Positive screening and positive confirmatory results will be called to providers the day testing is completed.

The DLS test request form (SFN 5826) must be completed with the following information to ensure free testing (see above criteria for eligibility):

- **Patient name and date of birth**
- **Complete address**
- **Symptoms and date of onset**
- **Hospitalization status**

Serum and the completed laboratory test request form (SFN 5826) should be sent to the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Laboratory Services, located at 2635 East Main Avenue, Bismarck, ND, 58501-9807. If you have questions regarding testing/shipping, please contact the DLS at 701.328.6272.

Please do not hesitate to contact the NDDoH Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2378 or toll free at 800.472.2180 if you have any questions or concerns. Your assistance with the surveillance program is greatly appreciated.