



Lab Quarterly

Quarter 3-2018

CAP LPX-A 2018

Eleven North Dakota Sentinel labs participated in the CAP LPX-A proficiency. Below is a brief summary of the ND Sentinel lab data:

LPX-01: “Non-BT culture”

- Nine of 11 ND labs responded correctly and indicated that no further action would be taken.

LPX-02: “Suspect *Yersinia pestis*, refer to rule out”

- Only one of the 11 ND labs responded Non-BT culture.

LPX-03: “Suspect *B. anthracis*, refer to rule out”

- All participating ND labs indicated they would refer the isolate to the NDDoH Laboratory as a suspect *B. anthracis*.

Thank you to all who participated and keep up the great work!

West Nile Virus Testing

It is summer, so be aware of mosquitoes which can transmit West Nile virus. The first case of West Nile virus in North Dakota was reported in 2002. In 2017, there were 62 cases and two deaths in North Dakota. Symptoms of West Nile virus may include fever, headache, body aches, and rash. More severe symptoms are confusion, convulsions, coma, paralysis and even death.

The NDDoH Microbiology Laboratory offers West Nile virus antibody, IgM testing.

Specimen: 2 mls late acute phase serum.

Stability: Ambient: 8 hours; Refrigerated: 2 days; Frozen: >2 days

Normal Value: Negative

Turn Around Time: 3 days

*Testing is free of charge June 1 through September 30, 2018.

Biosafety Box: Drills and Exercises

Does your staff know what to do in the event of an emergency? Drills and exercises are a great way to practice emergency response skills in case an emergency occurs. Some valuable responses to practice are spill cleanup, waste handling, and evacuations. By conducting drills and exercises, your staff will have the skills they need to respond efficiently and confidently. Remember the old saying, “Practice makes perfect.”

Training Opportunities

CDC and many of its partners offer online training to clinical laboratorians. The following FREE training opportunities are currently available:

[CDC Basic Microbiology eLearning Course](#)

[CDC Core Microbiology Skills](#)

[Biosecurity for Clinical Labs](#)

Many other topics are available as well. See the [CDC Laboratory Training](#) homepage for more information.