MLS Laboratory Update: Discontinuation of Arbovirus Testing for the 2025 Season

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

Purpose of this Message:

To notify clinical laboratory partners that arboviral testing services at the Minnesota Department of Health-Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) will soon be ending for the season.

Action Item:

Inform all applicable personnel in your facility that:

- Serological testing by EIA (enzyme-linked immunoassay) and IFA (immunofluorescences assay) at MDH-PHL for the following viruses will end immediately:
    - West Nile virus (WNV)
    - California serogroup viruses (CEV)
    - eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEE)
    - St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLE)
    - western equine encephalitis virus (WEE)
- All endemic arbovirus testing, including WNV PCR, and Powassan (POW) and Jamestown Canyon (JCV) virus EIA, will end December 1, 2025.

Background:

With the coming of winter, surveillance for WNV and other summer arboviral diseases in Minnesota, will be ending. The remainder of endemic arboviral testing, including Powassan (POW) and Jamestown Canyon (JCV) viruses, will end on December 1, 2025. Ticks become dormant when temperatures drop below 40 degrees Fahrenheit and generally become active after 2-3 days above 45 degrees. Mosquitoes prefer temperatures above 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Two great reasons to embrace winter in Minnesota. Specimens received at MDH-PHL after 12/01/25 will not be tested for any endemic arboviruses: Vectorborne Diseases (https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/vectorborne/index.html).

In summary:

- Serological testing for summer endemic arboviruses (WNV, CEV, EEE, SLE, WEE) will end immediately
- Testing for all endemic arboviruses for the 2025 season will end 12/01/25
- MDH will resume testing for Powassan virus when temperatures are consistently above 40° F (estimated to be mid-March 2026)

More information about POW can be found at: Powassan Virus Disease (https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/powassan/index.html)

Additional Information:

If travel associated arboviral infections are suspected–such as Zika, dengue, or chikungunya–or if you have additional questions about arboviral disease, please contact MDH Epidemiology at 651-201-5414.

For more information about arboviruses, please see our Vector borne Disease site (https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/vectorborne/index.html).

For the most up to date submission form, please see Forms for the Infectious Disease Laboratory (https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/forms.html)

Questions:
For specimen or assay-specific questions, please contact:

Anna K. Strain, Ph.D., Infectious Disease Laboratory Manager, at Anna.Strain@state.mn.us OR (651-201-5035)

OR the MN_LabSystem inbox at health.mnlabsystem@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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www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/mls/index.html

11/13/25

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