



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Division of Public Health

Date: September 21, 2022  
To: North Carolina Clinicians  
From: Erica Wilson, MD, MPH, Medical Epidemiologist  
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Subject: Diagnosis and Surveillance for Arboviral diseases

### **Introduction**

Arboviral, mosquito transmitted, diseases endemic to North Carolina are caused by three viruses; eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEE), West Nile virus (WNV), and the California encephalitis group of viruses, of which La Crosse virus (LAC) is the most common. Through mid-September 2022 there has been an increase in the number of reported WNV in North Carolina compared to previous years. We ask that you consider arboviral infection in persons with a clinically compatible illness.

### **Surveillance for Arboviral Diseases**

Per North Carolina law (10A NCAC 41A .0101), clinicians are required to report confirmed or suspected cases of neuroinvasive arboviral disease to their local health department. Laboratory diagnostic tests demonstrating isolation or identification of the pathogens are also reportable by laboratories to the Division of Public Health. North Carolina adheres to [CDC Arboviral Disease Case Definitions](#) for each of the vector-borne infections, which establish uniform criteria for disease reporting.

### **Actions for North Carolina Clinicians**

Report cases of vector-borne infections to your local health department within 7 days of a positive laboratory test. Remind patients to take preventive measures including: using [CDC-recommended](#) and [EPA-registered](#) insect repellents when outdoors; using permethrin treated clothing; and tipping and tossing any standing water in their yards that would promote mosquito development.

### **Testing**

The North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health facilitates serologic arbovirus testing at CDC on the following specimen types:

- CSF specimen (0.5 mL)
- Serum (0.5 mL)

Specimens should be refrigerated and sent on cold packs to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) as soon as possible after collection or frozen at  $\leq -20$  °C on dry ice. Specimens should accompany completed 50.34 DASH form and Special Serology Forms found here:

<https://slph.dph.ncdhhs.gov/forms.asp>

### **Additional Information**

<https://www.cdc.gov/westnile/>

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