



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Office of the Secretary

Joe Manchin III
Governor

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Patsy A. Hardy, FACHE, MSN, MBA
Cabinet Secretary

May 10, 2010

Dear Hospital Laboratory Director,

As mosquito-borne encephalitis season approaches, we would like to remind you of laboratory services available to you **free-of-charge** at the Office of Laboratory Services.

Serum or CSF can be submitted for arbovirus testing with a 2-day turn-around time. All samples will be tested for arboviruses relevant to West Virginia:

- Eastern equine encephalitis;
- LaCrosse encephalitis;
- Saint Louis encephalitis; and
- West Nile virus.

As a reminder, any specimen that tests arbovirus-positive in your laboratory must be submitted to the Office of Laboratory Services for follow-up testing, as required by 64CSR7. In the past, numerous false-positive results have been reported from West Nile virus diagnostic kits used by large commercial referral laboratories.

Arbovirus specimen kit requisition form, collection instructions and submission form can be downloaded from: <http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/labs/virology/arbovirus.cfm>

We thank you for your time and attention and look forward to working with you this season and many more to come. Please feel free to contact the Office of Laboratory Services at (304) 558-3530 extension 2402 with any questions, concerns or supply needs.

Sincerely,

Andrea Labik, ScD
Director, Office of Laboratory Services

Loretta E Haddy, PhD
State Epidemiologist

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