



# Criteria for West Nile Virus Testing

North Dakota Department of Health  
West Nile Virus Program

Division of Disease Control  
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The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) is conducting surveillance to identify illnesses which may be due to West Nile virus (WNV). The North Dakota Department of Health will provide **free** West Nile virus testing only on serum specimens from **patients meeting any one of the following criteria:**

## **Criteria I – Neuroinvasive Disease**

- The presence of fever is required with at least one of the following:
  - Signs of brain dysfunction (e.g., altered mental status, confusion, coma, disorientation and stupor)
  - Signs of other neurologic dysfunction (e.g., stiff neck, sensory deficits, abnormal reflexes or movements, paralysis and pleocytosis in cerebrospinal fluid)

## **Criteria II – Non-neuroinvasive Disease**

- The presence of documented fever is required and should include at least one additional symptom such as:
  - Headache, myalgia, arthralgia, malaise, skin rash, photo-phobia, lymphadenopathy, etc.

**The Laboratory Test Request Form (SFN 5826) must accompany ALL samples submitted for West Nile virus testing.**

**Patient name, complete address, date of birth, symptoms, date of onset and hospitalization status must be completed on the laboratory test request form (SFN 5826). Please note: the above information needs to be documented on the lab request form in order to be eligible for free testing.**

**WNV testing will be performed at the Division of Laboratory Services on Mondays and Wednesdays:**

- Positive screening results will be called to providers on hospitalized patients the day testing is completed
- Positive confirmatory results will be performed on Tuesdays and Fridays and called out as soon as the testing is completed

**Please note:** If CSF was drawn, it should be stored frozen. Questions regarding laboratory testing may be directed to the Division of Laboratory Services at 701.328.6272.