



# Criteria for West Nile Virus Testing

North Dakota Department of Health  
West Nile Virus Program

Division of Disease Control  
2635 E Main Ave, P.O. Box 5520  
Bismarck, ND 58506-5520  
Telephone: 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378  
Fax: 701.328.2499

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.