



LABORATORY BULLETIN

2006-June-12

#2006-4

To: Regional Laboratory Directors and Managers of Alberta, Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut

Re: West Nile Virus Diagnostic Testing

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As of June 1st, 2006, we have ramped up our West Nile Virus diagnostic testing at the ProVLab.

As in previous years, our testing is based on a combination of serology and nucleic acid amplification. Please note that full testing, including the confirmatory assays, requires 7-10 mL of blood in a serum separator tube, and 7-10 mL in an EDTA containing tube. Results will be provided within 72 hours in the vast majority of cases.

Attached is the Arbovirus Patient History form, which we require in addition to the usual ProVLab requisition. The history helps to triage specimens, and facilitates interpretation and communication of results. Also attached is an information sheet on the testing, with a concise description of the specimens required. Finally, a summary of the tests is provided which we hope you will find useful in interpretation of results.

Please feel free to contact us at the number below with any questions or comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Tilley".

Peter Tilley, MD, FRCPC
Medical Microbiologist
(403) 944-1203

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jutta Preiksaitis".

Jutta Preiksaitis, MD, FRCPC
Medical Director