

**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES
OFFICE OF LABORATORY SERVICES**

Instructions for Sending Specimens for Arbovirus Serology

Submission form:

Please include an arbovirus submission form for each specimen. Fill out the form as completely and legibly as possible. Testing will not be initiated without inclusion of the date of onset of symptoms and date the specimen was collected.

Shipping container:

Please put your specimen in a substantial container approved for mailing diagnostic specimens. Include absorbent material and pack the specimen in 2 different plastic containers to insure that any leakage is contained. Package for mailing diagnostic specimens, observing all relevant transport regulations. If you are hand carrying specimens, please observe the packing instructions above to secure the specimens in transit as if for mailing. **DO NOT CARRY IT ON YOUR PERSON!**

Specimen types and amounts:

Acute and convalescent specimens should be sent together whenever available. If one of these specimens is unavailable, we will accept single specimens for testing. Ideal timing of specimens is as follows: acute specimens should be taken within eight (8) days after onset of symptoms, convalescent specimens should be taken at least 2 weeks after the acute sample. (If the acute sample is taken too early, antibodies may not have had time to develop and a false negative test may result.) Test reports may include various possibilities for results observed.

Testing for serology is done on serum and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) specimens. Please send at least 0.5 ml of serum and at least 1 ml of CSF for proper testing to proceed. The larger amount of CSF specimen is required because these samples are routinely tested undiluted. Do not send whole blood. Transfer specimens to cryovial or similar crush resistant primary vial before mailing. Be sure correct name is on the vial.

Reporting of testing results:

Positive test results will normally be telephoned within 7 days of receipt of specimen. During periods of heavy submission, turn-around times may be longer. Receipt of a hard copy of the negative results may take 1 extra day for mailing. Initial serologic testing will be performed using IgM capture ELISA and IgG ELISA if indicated. If the initial results are positive, OLS will forward specimens to CDC or reference lab for further confirmatory testing.

Shipping address:

**WVDHHR
Office of Laboratory Services
167 11th Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303
Attention: Arbovirus Testing Laboratory**

In case of questions, telephone Wendy Hess in the Serology Laboratory at 558-3530 Ext. 2402.