

Laboratory Testing

- Samples from individuals suspected with non-neurologic disease (i.e. West Nile fever) should be evaluated by a commercial laboratory offering WNV testing.
- The Idaho Bureau of Laboratories will only test severe human cases (those presenting with neurologic or other severe manifestations) for the presence of specific antibodies against the virus. Positive samples may be confirmed by additional assays in order to rule-out cross reactivity with St. Louis encephalitis virus, a cross-reactive flavivirus.

The Idaho Bureau of Laboratories (IBL) Testing

Type of Test	Collection Timing	Comments
Serology	Acute serum: 5-14 days from symptom onset. (8 days post-onset is optimal)	IgM and IgG will be evaluated in both single or paired samples.
	CSF: 3-10 days from symptom onset. (8 days post-onset optimal)	Although IgM in a single sample is suggestive of an acute illness, WNV-specific IgM has been detected in some individuals for over 500 days. Therefore, the presence of IgM in a single sample may not signify an acute infection.
	Convalescent serum: >21 days from onset	A 4-Fold or greater change in IgM levels between acute and convalescent samples is more suggestive of an acute infection.

Reporting

- Hospitals, laboratories, physicians and other licensed health care providers must report each case or suspected case of West Nile fever and West Nile virus neuroinvasive disease to the Local Health District or Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Office of Epidemiology and Food Protection within 3 working days of identification, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations Governing Idaho Reportable Diseases (IDAPA 16.02.10)
- Reports must include:
 - Disease or condition being reported
 - Patient's name, date of birth, sex, address, and phone number
 - Physician's name, and phone number

For further information on West Nile Virus, including the latest Idaho data, contact your health district or go to www.westnile.idaho.gov or www.cdc.gov .