

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

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Laboratory of Public Health

Memo

To: Submitters of Clinical Specimens to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health

From: Scott M. Shone, PhD, HCLD(ABB) – Public Health Laboratory Director 

Date: July 8, 2024

Re: Arbovirus and *Rickettsia* Testing at the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health

Effective immediately, the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) will resume testing for endemic arboviruses and *Rickettsia* in-house.

Arbovirus testing includes detection of IgM antibodies to West Nile Virus (WNV) in serum specimens and detection of IgM antibodies to La Crosse Virus (LACV) in both serum and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). CSF specimens received for WNV testing and serum and CSF specimens received for EEE testing will still be forwarded to the Center for Disease and Control. All CSF submissions must be accompanied by a paired serum specimen.

The new *Rickettsia* Real-time PCR test is intended for the qualitative detection and differentiation of *R. rickettsii* and *R. prowazekii* DNA from venous whole blood specimens. This molecular test is specific for *Rickettsia* genus detection. *Rickettsia* serology is still available through NCSLPH, and paired serum specimens will be forwarded to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As a reminder, suspect cases of rickettsial disease should be treated empirically and promptly. Do not delay treatment for test results.

Submitters should continue submitting specimens with the [Special Serology test requisition form, DHHS 3445](#).

Additional information about submission criteria and shipping for all tests can be found in the [NCSLPH SCOPE Guide to Laboratory Services](#).

For questions, contact Rebecca S. Pelc, PhD, Virology/Serology Unit Manager, at 919-807-8868 or rebecca.pelc@dhhs.nc.gov or Segun Awe, Special Serology Supervisor, at 919-807-8821 or segun.awe@dhhs.nc.gov.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH • STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

LOCATION: 4312 District Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607

MAILING ADDRESS: 1918 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1918

www.ncdhhs.gov • <http://publichealth.nc.gov> • <https://slph.dph.ncdhhs.gov/> • TEL: 919-733-7834 • FAX: 919-733-8695

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