



Keep West Nile Virus on Your Radar

Why Test for West Nile Virus (WNV)?

- Testing enables mosquito control and public health agencies to institute proper control measures to prevent further cases.
- Testing helps to differentiate WNV from other conditions such as enterovirus, other arboviral diseases.
- Testing helps providers offer anticipatory guidance — both WNV neuroinvasive disease and WN fever patients can have lingering symptoms. Knowing the underlying etiology is helpful for the patient and family members.

For more information:

- WNV: Keep It On Your Radar: cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Documents/KeepWNVonYourRadar.pps
- CA WNV website: westnile.ca.gov
- CDC: www.cdc.gov/westnile
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When, Where and How to Test:

When:

- Typically April through November for patients presenting with:
 - Encephalitis
 - Aseptic meningitis
 - Acute flaccid paralysis, atypical Guillain-Barré syndrome, transverse myelitis
 - Febrile illness ($T > 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ for > 7 days), other symptoms may include headache, rash, swollen lymph nodes, eye pain, nausea, or vomiting

Where:

- Many private, hospital and public health labs offer WNV testing; San Mateo County Public Health Laboratory does not currently offer testing.
- Positive results should be confirmed by the [California Viral & Rickettsial Disease Laboratory](#). San Mateo County Public Health Laboratory can help route specimens to the state lab.

How:

- Lab diagnosis is generally accomplished by testing serum or cerebral spinal fluid
- Acute serum specimens (> 2 cc) and if lumbar puncture performed, 1-2 cc cerebrospinal fluid are required for testing

