



# MEMORANDUM

---

**Date:** 9/29/2025  
**To:** Colleagues  
**Re:** Organ Donor Testing for West Nile Virus (WNV) - Routine testing of organ donor samples will cease as of Sept 30th, 2025

---

Dear colleagues,

As you are aware, WNV infection is a seasonal infection in Canada typically causing human infections during the summer months, usually starting August and continuing until late September. There has been very little WNV activity since 2010 in BC; however, in 2021, two travel-related human cases were reported, and in 2023 one travel-related human case was reported. No animals tested positive for WNV in BC during those years. Please note that there has been no active mosquito surveillance performed since 2015 in BC. This year one travel-related probable case has been reported from BC. Sporadic human and animal WNV cases continue to be reported every year in neighboring US states such as Washington and this year travel related cases have been detected from our neighboring provinces as well.

This year, we will cease routine testing of organ donor samples for West Nile Virus after Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

WNV can be transmitted by blood products or organ donations from a WNV infected donor, typically during the incubation period which is approximately 3 to 14 days after infection. As a result Canadian Blood Services tests all blood products for WNV RNA.

The decision as to when during the season to perform WNV testing routinely in organ donors is based on a risk assessment of the probability of local transmission. For example, WNV testing of solid and non-solid organ donors is not recommended in BC during the fall and winter months (October to June) when mosquitoes, the vectors, are not active.

Please note that if the donor has a WNV risk factor, (e.g., travel to or residence in areas where WNV transmission occurs year round such as Florida, California or other Southern USA States, or lives in or visited other endemic regions in Canada or around the world) WNV PCR will be performed on request. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns.

Sincerely,

Linda Hoang, MD, MSc, DTM&H, FRCPC  
Medical Director  
Public Health Laboratory  
BC Centre for Disease Control

Muhammad Morshed, BSc, MSc, PhD, SCCM  
Clinical Microbiologist & Program Head  
Zoonotic Diseases and Emerging Pathogens  
Public Health Laboratory  
BC Centre for Disease Control