

# MLS Laboratory Update: Ending All Arbovirus Testing for the 2022 Season

DECEMBER 20, 2022

## Purpose of this Message:

To notify clinical laboratory partners that arboviral testing services at the Minnesota Department of Health-Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) will be ending for the season.

## Action Item:

Inform all affected personnel in your facility that arboviral testing is not currently available at MDH-PHL.

## Background:

With the coming of winter, surveillance for arboviral diseases, including Powassan virus (POW), has ended for 2022. Ticks become dormant when temperatures drop below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, and generally become active after 2-3 days above 45 degrees. Mosquitoes prefer temperatures above 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Two more reasons to embrace winter in Minnesota. Specimens received at MDH-PHL after 12/23/2022 will not be tested for POW.

In summary:

- Testing for Powassan virus and mosquito-borne viruses will end 12/23/2022
- MDH will resume testing for Powassan virus when temperatures are consistently above 40° F (estimated to be mid-March)

Further information about [Powassan Virus Disease](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/powassan/index.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/powassan/index.html>).

## Additional Information:

If travel associated arboviral infections are suspected –such as Zika, dengue, or chikungunya – or if you have additional questions about arboviral disease, please contact MDH Epidemiology at 651-201-5414.

For more information about arboviruses, please see [Vectorborne Diseases](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/vectorborne/index.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/vectorborne/index.html>).

For the most up to date submission form, please see [Forms for the Infectious Disease Laboratory](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/forms.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/forms.html>).

**Questions:**

For specimen or assay-specific questions, please contact:

Scott Cunningham, Virology Unit Supervisor at [Scott.Cunningham@state.mn.us](mailto:Scott.Cunningham@state.mn.us)

OR the MN\_LabSystem inbox at [health.mnlabsystem@state.mn.us](mailto:health.mnlabsystem@state.mn.us)

For case reporting or arbovirus information:

Vector-Borne Disease Epidemiology at 651-201-5414

Thank you for your partnership and continued arboviral disease surveillance efforts in Minnesota.

Scott Cunningham

Virology Unit Supervisor

Phone: 651-201-5032

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12/15/2022

*To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5200.*