

MLS Laboratory Update: Resumption of Jamestown Canyon Virus Testing for the 2024 Season

APRIL 12, 2024

Purpose of this Message:

To alert clinical laboratory partners of the resumption of Jamestown Canyon virus testing at the Minnesota Department of Health-Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL).

Action Item:

Inform all relevant personnel in your facility that Jamestown Canyon virus EIA testing is available at MDH-PHL.

Background:

With the warmer than usual winter and the arrival of spring, seasonal surveillance for the mosquito-borne Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) is underway and testing for JCV by EIA has resumed at the MDH-PHL. Clinicians should be aware that Powassan (POW) or Jamestown Canyon viral infection is possible when evaluating a patient with encephalitis once outdoor temperatures are above 40-60°F. Acceptable specimen types for POW and JCV serological testing include both CSF and serum. Information regarding acceptable specimen types can be found on Infectious Disease Laboratory [Clinical Guide to Services](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/gts/testsa.html#arbo) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/gts/testsa.html#arbo>).

In summary:

- MDH is currently testing for Powassan and Jamestown Canyon viruses
- Resumption of seasonal testing for West Nile and other mosquito-borne viruses is still pending for 2024. A future MLS message will be issued when MDH resumes testing for these viruses.

More information about POW can be found at [Powassan Virus Disease](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/powassan/index.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/powassan/index.html>) and information for JCV can be found at [Jamestown Canyon Virus Disease](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/jcv/index.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/jcv/index.html>).

Additional Information:

Specimen Requirements:

- 1 mL of serum (preferred)

- 1 mL CSF (preferably with a paired serum)
- Please ship specimens on cold packs (2-8°C) within 48 hours of collection. If shipping will be delayed, please freeze specimens and ship to MDH frozen.
- Please **provide symptom onset dates** when requesting serology testing for the arboviruses in the *Date of Symptom Onset* section of the General Infectious Disease Laboratory Submission Form.

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: Please contact:
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PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO ALL APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL WITHIN YOUR INSTITUTION AND HEALTH SYSTEM

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