

First confirmed Human West Nile Virus case in 2011

On September 1, 2011 Toronto Public Health received confirmation of the first case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in a Toronto resident for this year. The 36 year old male was hospitalized for viral meningitis, and has been discharged home where he is recovering. The case did not travel during his incubation period.

Mosquito traps that are placed throughout the City as part of the WNV surveillance program have found virus-infected mosquitoes in 68 traps so far this summer, up from 19 positive traps last summer. Human cases may still present to health care providers over the next few weeks.

Signs and Symptoms: WNV can present as a flu-like illness in approximately 20% of infected individuals with headache, fever, fatigue and occasionally a rash on the trunk of the body, lymphadenopathy or photophobia.

Less than 1% of infected cases present with neurological manifestations. Signs and symptoms may be consistent with an encephalitis, acute signs of central or peripheral neurologic dysfunction or viral meningitis, or an acute flaccid paralysis syndrome.

Lab Testing: Serology should be submitted to confirm a recent infection.

When ordering serology:

- Use an OAHPP / Public Health Ontario Laboratory requisition form and check V 02 for arboviruses
- Indicate that the test is for **suspect West Nile Virus**, symptoms, symptom onset date, any travel history, and whether the test is for acute or convalescent testing.

For cases with neurological involvement, submit a CSF sample if possible for PCR testing in addition to serology. A Labstract on West Nile Virus Test interpretations is available at:

<http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/lababstracts.html>

Toronto surveillance information and fact sheets about West Nile Virus are available on our website at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/health/westnile/index.htm>

Any suspect or confirmed cases of West Nile Virus should be immediately reported to Toronto Public Health by calling our surveillance unit at 416-392-7411 during work hours (8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday) or at 3-1-1 after hours

TPH has recently launched a website for Health Professionals. Please visit this website at <http://www.toronto.ca/health/professionals> and register to receive public health information.