

Reporting and Follow-Up of West Nile Virus-Infected Blood Donors

West Nile virus (WNV) infection, including neuroinvasive disease, fever, and asymptomatic infections detected by blood banks, was made reportable in 2005 per Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 2500 and 2505. WNV positive donors detected by blood banks are reported directly to local health jurisdictions, not directly to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). This document provides guidance to local health jurisdictions on follow-up to WNV positive blood donors and reporting to CDPH.

- A licensed blood collection agency that detects a WNV infection in a donor should report the infection within two weeks of donation directly to the local health jurisdiction corresponding to the donor's residence. Blood collection agencies will report a presumptively viremic donor (PVD) that meets at least one of the following criteria:
 - One reactive nucleic acid test (NAT) with a signal-to-cutoff (S/CO) ratio \geq 17, or
 - Two reactive NATs
- Donors who are confirmed viremic or NAT positive will not necessarily be symptomatic, nor will they initially have positive IgM or IgG WNV tests.
- Additional serological testing is not required.
- Local health jurisdictions should follow up with the donor after two weeks of the date of donation to assess if the patient subsequently became ill.
- WNV infections, including PVD, should be reported via CalREDIE. For local health jurisdictions not currently participating in CalREDIE, a WNV Infection CRF (CDPH 8687) or other form containing the same information, must be submitted. Jurisdictions may contact Mary Beth Danforth, Ph.D., (Mary.Danforth@cdph.ca.gov, 916-449-5179) for the WNV CRF (8687) if needed.
- Asymptomatic WNV PVDs who are reported through CalREDIE and meet the following criteria will be included in CDPH case counts and reports, as well as reported to the CDC via the ArboNET reporting system:
 - Process Status: Closed by local health jurisdiction
 - Disease: West Nile virus – Asymptomatic
 - Resolution Status: Confirmed
 - WNV laboratory results must be included in the case report.
- Local health jurisdictions should report blood donors who test positive for WNV to their local vector control agency as soon as possible, preferably when the local health jurisdiction is initially notified of the blood donor, so that enhanced

mosquito surveillance and control can be conducted in the vicinity of the donor's residence.

- If a person with neuroinvasive or non-neuroinvasive WNV disease is reported to a local health jurisdiction and the person donated blood in the two weeks prior to illness but was not previously identified by the blood bank as infected with WNV, the local health jurisdiction should notify the appropriate blood collection facility so that the potentially infected blood products can be tracked.
- Questions about blood bank reporting should be directed to Mary Beth Danforth, Ph.D. (Mary.Danforth@cdph.ca.gov, 916-449-5179).

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