

West Nile virus IgM Antibody

Test Description	Qualitative assay for the detection of IgM antibody to West Nile virus in human serum.
Test Use	As an aid to the laboratory diagnosis of West Nile virus infection in persons with symptoms of meningoencephalitis.
Test Department	Virology Phone: (860) 920-6662, FAX: (860) 920-6661
Methodology	Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)
Availability	Test is performed as needed
Specimen Requirements	1 mL serum
Collection Kit/Container	To obtain a collection kit, refer to Collection Kit Ordering Information.
Collection Instructions	Standard venipuncture
Specimen Handling & Transport	Store serum at 2-8° C. Transport with an ice pack coolant. Specimens must be received within 48 hours of collection.
Unacceptable Conditions	Unlabeled specimen Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit Hyper-lipemic, hemolyzed, icteric, contaminated or heat-inactivated sera
Requisition Form	Clinical Test Requisition (select West Nile virus IgM)
Required Information	Name and address of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #) Patient name or identifier, date of birth, town of residence (city, state, zip) Specimen type or source of collection, test requested, date of collection Please ensure patient name on the requisition matches that on the specimen.
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This assay may cross-react with antibodies produced to other flaviviruses (e.g., dengue virus, yellow fever virus, St. Louis encephalitis virus, Japanese encephalitis virus and others). These diseases must be excluded before confirmation of diagnosis. • Positive results reported for children must be interpreted with caution due to cross reactivity with antibodies to enteroviruses.
Additional Comments	In a majority of infected patients, IgM antibody is detectable in serum by the eighth day of infection and remains for at least 1-2 months after illness onset. In some patients IgM antibody will be detectable for 1 to 2 years or longer.

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