May 1, 2019

West Nile Virus 2019 Monitoring Season

Overview

Seasonal monitoring of epidemic triggers for West Nile Virus (WNV) NAT tested donations is available from June 1 through October 31, 2019. No changes are proposed to the WNV trigger on/off strategy this year. Most CTS clients self-monitor their own WNV reactive samples, enabling them to decide exactly when and where to trigger on/off, and for how long.

Alternatively, CTS can monitor your WNV reactive samples based on the WNV trigger criteria provided. If you are in this category, we assume your 2019 trigger on/off strategy will remain unchanged from 2018. If you wish to make changes to your 2019 trigger criteria, please contact your Client Services Manager.

CTS will continue to send the WNV Alert email to inform you of your WNV reactive samples and request donor information. If you receive this email, please reply as soon as possible with the needed donor information (home city, state and zip code) as well as blood donation product type.

CTS does not email your reactive WNV alerts to any other blood collection facility, however we will continue to report your WNV initially reactive sample to the AABB Biovigilance website on your behalf. In order to access the most current reactive WNV sample information we recommend you visit the [AABB West Nile Virus Biovigilance Network](https://www.aabb.org/biovigilance) website and/or develop a regional process for sharing reactive donation information.

Again this year, CTS has distributed the 10 regional email groups (same as the 10 DHHS Regions) for you to notify other organizations serving overlapping and adjacent areas.

Should you have new staff or anyone requiring a refresher on the WNV monitoring season they can access and review the [CTS WNV PowerPoint presentation](#).

Finally, depending on the severity and length of the upcoming 2019 West Nile Virus season, you may experience delayed uploads. CTS has contingency plans in place at each lab to help alleviate this situation. If your test results are delayed, however CTS will inform you immediately and as always will upload results as soon as they are available.

Client “Trigger On/Off” Process

CTS partners that zone their collection territory are required to send an electronic file to order iWNV testing. For partners that elect to have CTS monitor their reactive activity, CTS will trigger on (discontinue...
mini-pool testing and begin individual WNV testing) once the “pre-defined” trigger criterion is met. Once a client has met their individual de-trigger criteria, their samples will revert back to mini-pool testing.

- Two options:
  1. Client will monitor own reactive donations and self-trigger on/off.
  2. CTS Record Review staff will monitor and trigger on/off clients based on selected trigger criteria.

What is not changing:

- CTS proposed WNV testing strategy.
- CTS will only communicate your WNV reactive donation information to you.
- CTS will report your WNV reactive donations into the AABB Biovigilance website.
- Supplemental testing on reactive samples.
- Guidelines to share reactive donation information with other organizations serving overlapping and adjacent areas.
- Respond by email to reactive WNV alerts with information on the donor’s city, state, zip code and product type.

Client Action Items:

- If you want to change your trigger criteria for 2019, please contact your CTS Client Services Manager.
- Notify appropriate staff to respond as soon as possible by email to reactive WNV alerts with information on the donor’s city, state, zip code and product type.
- Use the 10 regionals DHHS lists for sharing reactive donation information with other organizations serving overlapping and adjacent areas and/or the AABB blast email process throughout the WNV season.

Questions and Additional Information:

Please email your questions or requests for additional information to Lindsey Houghton (lhoughton@mycts.org) or O’Dina Hurlburt (ohurlburt@mycts.org).