

# Arbovirus Shared Service Pilot

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Arbovirus Shared Service Pilot was established in 2025 to ensure access to diagnostic tests which are no longer available elsewhere. New York State Department of Health's Wadsworth Center serves as the testing laboratory for this pilot. Listed below are commonly asked questions pertaining to this testing. This document will be updated as new questions are received.

### Questions and Answers (Q&A)

**Q:** What testing is currently available through APHL's Arbovirus Shared Service Pilot?

**A:** Test availability at Wadsworth Center and CDC is available [here](#). As a reminder be sure to confirm with the CDC laboratory prior to sending any specimens.

**Q:** Are there any specimens that should go to CDC rather than to Wadsworth Center for testing?

**A:** Please review the following answer completely as the two laboratories do have some overlapping test options and we do NOT want to split specimens.

The following specimens may be sent to CDC for testing:

- Specimens which are IgM positive and for which only a PRNT will be requested should be sent to CDC.
- If no testing has been performed, send specimens for IgM testing for endemic arboviruses (e.g. West Nile virus (WNV), Saint Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV), Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV), La Crosse encephalitis virus (LACV), Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV), Powassan virus (POWV)), or Zika virus and Yellow fever virus
- Specimens for molecular testing for Oropouche virus and Colorado Tick Fever Virus

Specimens for all other test requests should be sent to Wadsworth Center. If you have questions about the best place to send your specimen for testing, you may contact the CDC's Division of Vector-borne Diseases-Arboviral Diseases Branch Epidemiologists at: [adbclinicalteam@cdc.gov](mailto:adbclinicalteam@cdc.gov)

**Q:** Where should I ship my specimens?

**A:** Information pertaining to specimen collection and shipping to Wadsworth Center is located [here](#). Information pertaining to specimen collection and shipping to CDC is available at the [CDC Test Directory](#).

**Q:** Is there any patient information beyond what is required that I should include with the test request for specimens being shipped to Wadsworth Center?

**A:** Yes. Please include previous test history and results, travel history and symptom onset dates if they are available. This information is helpful in determining the appropriate tests to perform. This information should be included in the comment field of the electronic test request.

**Q:** Can PRNT be performed on a single specimen, or can it only be performed on paired specimens?

**A:** PRNT is best performed on paired acute and convalescent sera. A four-fold rise in titer between acute and convalescent specimens tested on the same run is required to confirm a recent or current infection. Titers should not be compared between runs.

**Q:** What confirmatory testing is performed as part of the Arbovirus Shared Service Pilot? Will my specimen be automatically reflexed to PRNT?

**A:** Specimens which are IgM positive and for which only a PRNT will be requested should be sent to CDC.

Specimens received at Wadsworth Center with an IgM result from a test performed at a commercial laboratory without any additional results (i.e. testing performed at a public health laboratory) will have a repeat IgM performed by Wadsworth Center. Specimens which are IgM positive from a test performed at a public health laboratory will have a PRNT performed without any additional IgM testing performed at Wadsworth.

**Q:** The result for my submitted sample says “flavivirus reactive.” What does that mean?

**A:** Wadsworth Center performs two different Luminex microsphere immunoassays (MIAs); one which can detect both Powassan virus (POWV) and West Nile virus (WNV) and a second which will detect Zika virus and dengue virus. Each assay contains virus specific NS1 antigens and virus specific envelope (Env) antigen; however the envelope proteins of related viruses are known to cross-react. Therefore, if virus specific Env is detected in the absence of a virus specific NS1 the result is “Flavivirus Reactive” because something in the serum is reacting, but a specific virus cannot be attributed.

Example of Possible Outcomes on the POWV/WNV MIA:

- Powassan Positive: POWV NS1 detected, POWV Env detected
- WNV Positive: WNV NS1 detected, WNV Env detected
- Flavivirus reactive (FR): Env detected (POWV or WNV), corresponding NS1 not detected
- Indeterminate: NS1 detected, ENV not detected

**Q:** What if we do not have the minimum volume required by Wadsworth Center as stated in the [test catalog](#) or the [Shipping and Submission Instructions](#)?

**A:** Please email [arbovirusnys@health.ny.gov](mailto:arbovirusnys@health.ny.gov). Some testing may be able to be performed depending on the exact volume of specimen available and the tests requested.

**Q:** What is the turnaround time for results from Wadsworth Center?

**A:** Turnaround time for molecular and serology test results are not expected to exceed an average of ≤1 week, PRNT results are not expected to exceed an average of ≤15 days. For more information refer to the [Shipping and Submission Instructions](#).