



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Bureau for Public Health

Bill J. Crouch
Cabinet Secretary

Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH
Commissioner & State Health Officer

May 13, 2019

Dear Hospital Laboratory Director:

As the season for mosquito-borne encephalitis approaches, we would like to remind you of free available laboratory services provided through the Office of Laboratory Services (OLS).

The state has mosquito-borne disease testing capacity for chikungunya, dengue, and Zika virus testing. If you suspect a patient has symptoms of Zika or other travel-associated mosquito-borne diseases, contact your local health department (LHD). Zika virus disease is reportable to the LHD within 24 hours.

As a reminder, any specimen that tests arbovirus-positive in your laboratory **must** be submitted to OLS for follow-up testing, as required by 64CSR7. Each year a subset of specimens received at OLS is forwarded to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for confirmatory testing. Patient specimen collection instructions and the submission form can be downloaded from: [//dhhr.wv.gov/ols/forms/Pages/default.aspx](http://dhhr.wv.gov/ols/forms/Pages/default.aspx).

We thank you for your time and attention and look forward to working with you this season and many more to come. Please feel free to contact OLS at (304) 558-3530, extension 2403, with any questions, concerns, or supply needs.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sharon Cibrik in blue ink.

Sharon Cibrik, Director
OLS

Handwritten signature of Amy Atkins in blue ink.

Amy Atkins, Director
Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services