Arbovirus Panel (Encephalitis Viruses)	
Test Description	Qualitative assay for the detection of IgM antibodies to West Nile (WNV), St. Louis Encephalitis (SLEV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEEV), and Powassan (POWV) viruses in human serum and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
Test use	To aid in the diagnosis of current or past infection with arboviruses
Test Department	Virology Phone: (860) 920-6662, FAX: (860) 920-6661
Methodology	Microsphere-based immunoassay (MIA); IgM capture ELISA (POWV)
Availability	Monday-Friday; POWV ELISA conducted at CDC, Fort Collins, CO
Specimen Requirements	0.5 mL serum (serum separator tube, SST) and/or 1 mL CSF
Collection kit/Container	Collection kits can be obtained by calling the outfit room, (860) 920-6674 or (860) 920-6675, Monday- Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Requests may also be submitted via e-mail to dph.outfitroom@ct.gov
Collection Instructions	Standard venipuncture for serum, allow SST specimens to clot completely before centrifugation. Collect CSF aseptically and submit in sterile container.
Specimen Handling & Transport	Store specimen at 2-8°C prior to testing. If there is a delay expected, store serum specimens (only if poured off clot) and CSF at -20°C or lower until delivered to the laboratory. Transport with an ice pack coolant. Avoid temperature extremes.
Unacceptable Conditions	Unlabeled specimen; Improper specimen type; Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit; Specimens not handled, stored, or transported as described above.
Requisition Form	Clinical Test Requisition (indicate **Arbovirus Panel (Encephalitis Viruses**). Specify the suspected arbovirus when appropriate.
Required Information	Name and address of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #); Patient name or identifier, town of residence (city, state, zip), date of birth; Specimen source/type, date collected, test requested; Date of onset of patient symptoms; Pertinent travel history (up to 3 months prior to symptom onset) Please ensure patient name on the requisition matches that on the specimen.
Limitations	Testing is limited to those patients exhibiting symptoms and/or travel history consistent with arbovirus infection. If EEEV or other arboviral infection is suspected, contact the DPH Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program (860-509-7994) for assistance with coordinating testing. Results are not intended to be used as the sole basis for diagnosis, treatment, or other patient management decisions, and should be interpreted in conjunction with clinical observations, patient history, epidemiological information, and other laboratory evidence.
Additional Comments	Diagnosis of arboviral infection is through detection of IgM antibody in serum or CSF followed by confirmatory PRNT. Samples found to be presumptive positive on the IgM MIA are sent to CDC for confirmatory testing. The SPHL Arboviral Panel includes EEEV, WNV, SLEV, and POWV. EEEV, WNV, and SLEV IgM MIA are performed at SPHL; samples found to be negative for these are forwarded to CDC for POWV testing.

Revision: 07/29/2020