## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION</th>
<th>INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ENCEPHALITIS, ARBOVIRAL, WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV)</strong></td>
<td><em>West Nile Virus</em></td>
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### PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION

**KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION**
- Read about Encephalitis Arboviral, (WNV) in the CD Manual.
- See the case definition for Encephalitis Arboviral, (WNV) in the CD Manual.
- Print and review reporting forms:
  - *Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)*
  - *Part 2: Encephalitis, Arboviral, (WNV) (DHHS/EPI #95)*

### CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION

**COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION**
- If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, lab report(s), and discharge summary).
- Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition.
- Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition.

**REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION**
- Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease or facilitate testing through the SLPH if needed.
- Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied.
- Contact healthcare provider if further testing of the patient is indicated.

**APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION**
- Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria.

### IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES

**ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE**
- Review clinical records for potential source(s) of exposure.
- If probable source of exposure is not evident in clinical information, interview patient to obtain additional information.

**IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES**
- Use the CDC website [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) to teach at risk people about the disease.
- Alert local health director, environmental health specialist and mosquito control officials to the existence of case and encourage mosquito control measures.
**REPORTING INVESTIGATION**

**REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)**
- Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered.
- Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete.

**CASE FINDING**
- During the course of the investigation, look for symptoms of disease in other exposed individuals.
- Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation.
- If two or more cases are epidemiologically linked, report as an outbreak of Encephalitis, Arboviral (WNV).
- If indicated, submit an outbreak summary report within 30 days from close of outbreak.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING**
- Media interest may be piqued by this disease, especially if hospitalization or death occurs. Consider verifying the laboratory test results by sending specimen(s) to the SLPH/CDC for reference testing.

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES**
- Enteric precautions appropriate until enterovirus meningoencephalitis (see viral meningitis) is ruled out.

**TRANSMISSION RISK**
- Not transmitted from person to person except rarely by transfusion, organ transplant, transplacentally, or through breastmilk.
- Although WNV is rarely transmitted from person to person, the remote possibility that a mosquito biting an infected person during the viremic state could become infected and pass WNV to other individuals exists. Prevent access of mosquitoes to the patient for at least 5 days after onset or until afebrile.

**RISK COMMUNICATION**
- Consider using risk communication tools conservatively if this is a low profile, naturally-occurring case.
- Outbreaks will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and probably a press release.
- NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.