

2021 Louisiana Arboviral Surveillance Sampling Standards

All Louisiana Mosquito Abatement Districts (MADs) and Parish surveillance-based abatement programs that contracted with the Louisiana Department of Health - Office of Public Health (LDH-OPH) for funding in 2007 agreed to the requirement that all surveillance activities must be consistent with published CDC guidelines and recommendations found in the Revised Guidelines for Surveillance, Prevention and Control, April 2003: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/resources/wnv-guidelines-aug-2003.pdf>

These CDC guidelines and recommendations specify the use of standardized and consistent surveillance efforts by adult mosquito surveillance programs and promoted states to establish statewide sampling standards. Each year the Louisiana Arboviral Working Group's Surveillance Sampling Committee holds a meeting(s) to establish statewide Arboviral Sampling Standards for that year. All MADs, Parish, town and city surveillance-based abatement programs in the State are invited to participate at this meeting.

The Arboviral Surveillance Sampling Standards listed below were agreed to by consensus at the July 7, 2021 meeting of the Louisiana Arboviral Surveillance Sampling Committee and were recognized as the standards for 2021.

For 2021, all sample analyses are to be conducted by the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADDL), and all samples submitted to the LADDL must meet the following guidelines:

Mosquito pools

- RT-PCR will be performed for WNV, SLE, EEE
- Submissions from September 1-March 31 will be limited to a maximum of 2 pools/trap/trap night.
- *Culex quinquefasciatus* - 3 pools / trap / trap night
- Other Species - Maximum: 3 pools (100/pool) / species / site/ trap night
- Mixed species pools - Limited to gravid trap collections, only.
- Total submissions 6 pools (all species) / site/ trap night
- Maximum: 100 mosquitoes / pool with a Minimum of 5 mosquitoes / pool, except during winter months when Minimum number may be lowered.
- Mosquitoes may be submitted throughout the year
- From June - October, 2021, pools will be tested for SLE and EEE
- Place the mosquito samples in a 2.0 ml tubes provided by laboratory.
- When shipping mosquito samples, preferably ship in boxes containing dividers. If using a plastic bag, bundle the tubes with a rubber band. Single tubes often pop open or crush during shipment.
- All mosquito pool submissions will be invoiced by the LADDL at \$3.50/pool from January 1st - December 31, 2021.
- Fees must be submitted to the LADDL in a timely fashion. If after 60 days from the invoice date, any fees are outstanding, no further samples will be tested for that submitter or from the MAD, parish, town or city connected to the outstanding payments, until all outstanding invoices have been paid in full.

Wild bird bloods

- RT-PCR will be performed for WNV, SLE, EEE
- RT-PCR will be performed for SLE and EEE on birds from selected locations that have had a prior history
- Submissions will only be accepted from pre-approved programs
- Can be collected all year long
- All species will be accepted
- All Wild Bird Submissions will be invoiced \$8.00/sample by LADDL

Horses

- Serum samples can be submitted to the LADDL for WNV and EEE IgM antibody testing (ELISA) and will be charged the standard laboratory testing fee. Please check the LADDL Website for Fees.
- Request for testing must be through a veterinarian using the standard LADDL submission form.
- Laboratory results will be reported to the client, i.e. submitting veterinarian, and to the State Veterinarian.
- Western or Venezuelan encephalitis antibody tests and necropsy request for confirmation of encephalitis are not included in this program. These requests can still be performed by the LADDL for the standard fee.

Sentinel Chickens

- Will not be collected or tested.

Dead Birds

- Will not be collected or tested.

All samples must be submitted within 8-10 days of sampling or those samples will not be processed, unless prior notification and agreement with the LADDL has been reached. Submissions to LADDL must be received by 1:00 P.M. each Wednesday for that Friday afternoon's report.

In order to participate in this surveillance program, all participants must utilize and comply with the ARBONET Reporting Requirements, including timely data entry.

The LADDL sample results must be utilized for all public distributions, including ARBONET Reporting Requirements and press releases. LDH-OPH will continue to make statewide Press Releases concerning WNV, SLE, EEE activity and safety procedures.

MADs and Parish surveillance-based abatement programs may retain a split of some samples for internal testing. However, any such internal testing does not meet Louisiana Arboviral Surveillance Sampling Committee's 2021 Louisiana Arboviral Surveillance Sampling Standards, and therefore, any such internal test results, including any split sample results, may only be utilized for that program's internal use and distribution. Such results are specifically precluded from being reported to the public, especially in the form of Press Releases or other official statements/notifications.

The Sampling Committee will review numbers of submissions throughout the year. MADs are encouraged to "be reasonable" in their numbers of submissions. If disproportionate numbers are submitted, the Sampling Committee may convene to address the problem.

Beginning January 2016, the LADDL and all participants in the Louisiana Arbovirus Surveillance Program have been required to use the Web based database system LASTS - Louisiana ArboVirus Surveillance Tracking System for both tracking field surveillance and recording lab test results. For 2021, all mosquito pools and wild birds' samples will be tracked in the LASTS. <http://LAarbo.net>

The Louisiana Arboviral Working Group Sampling Committee members include:

Kyle Moppert, OPH

Dr. Alma Roy, PhD, LADDL

Dr. Gary Balsamo, DVM, OPH

George Bragg, Director - WBRMC

Dr. Kristen Healy, PhD, LSU