

## 2026 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 promote 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 in this meeting.

The Arboviral Surveillance Sampling Standards listed below were agreed to by consensus by the Louisiana Arboviral Surveillance Sampling Committee and were recognized as the standards for 2026.

For 2026, all sample analyses that are 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 nights.
- *Culex quinquefasciatus* - 3 pools / 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 2026, pools will be tested for SLE and EEE
- Place the mosquito samples in a 2.0 ml tube provided by the laboratory.
- When shipping mosquito samples, preferably ship in boxes containing dividers. If you use 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 accessed with a fee of \$5.50/pool from January 1<sup>st</sup>-December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Monthly billing statements will be sent with charges.
- 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.

## Equine

- Serum samples can be submitted to LADDL for WNV and EEE IgM antibody testing (ELISA) and will be charged with 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 to veterinarians, 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 LADDL for the standard fee.

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 have been reached. **Testing will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday of each week. Specimens for testing must be received in the laboratory by 12:00 pm on testing days for timely results.**

The LADDL sample results must be utilized for all public distributions, including VectorSurv (LASurv) 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 2026 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.

It is suggested that testing performed within districts should be performed with the appropriate test methods to include Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and must be performed using measured quality standards. All test results should be added to VectorSurv (LASurv) and reported to the LA Department of Health.

LADDL and all participants in the Louisiana Arbovirus Surveillance Program are required to use the Web based database system VectorSurv (LASurv) System for both tracking field surveillance and recording lab test results.

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

The Louisiana Arboviral Working Group Sampling Committee members currently include:

Kyle Moppert, OPH

Dr. Alma Roy, PhD, LADDL

George Bragg, Director - WBRMC

Dr. Kristen Healy, PhD, LSU

Dr. Amy Bunch, DVM, OPH