

## **WNV Blood Report, British Columbia, 28 Aug 2009**

### **SUMMARY:**

**WNV IS NOW CONFIRMED TO BE PRESENT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, BUT AT A LOW LEVEL OF ACTIVITY, AND LIMITED TO THE SOUTH OKANAGAN REGION OF THE PROVINCE AT THIS TIME. ALTHOUGH THE POTENTIAL FOR TRANSFUSION TRANSMITTED WNV HAS INCREASED, THE CURRENT RISK OF WNV IN THE BLOOD SUPPLY DISTRIBUTED WITHIN BRITISH COLUMBIA IS STILL CONSIDERED TO BE LOW.**

**SURVEILLANCE AND RISK SYNOPSIS:** The current overall assessment of WNV risk for blood distributed in BC is “risk level 4 out of 5” (see chart below). In the past week, one confirmed and one probable human case have been reported from the South Okanagan area of BC. Neither case was a blood donor or recent blood recipient. This level of activity does not meet the threshold for implementing single unit WNV donor testing. (i.e. a positive Canadian Blood Services WNV screening test result or a 2 week incidence of public health-reported WNV greater than 1:1000 for a rural area). Minipool WNV testing continues for all blood collections in BCY region, including the approximate 300 collections per week from the Okanagan area. These are the first human cases of WNV reported in Canada this year.

Elsewhere in Canada, WNV positive mosquito pools have been reported in Saskatchewan and a few WNV positive birds from Ontario. Overall WNV activity across Canada is lower than in previous years and risk of WNV associated with a unit imported to BCY region from elsewhere in Canada is very low.

The 2009 **British Columbia Action Plan for WNV and the Blood Supply** is available at the Provincial Blood Co-ordinating Office TRAQ program website at:  
[www.traqprogram.ca/library/BC-WNV-Blood-Action-Plan-2009.pdf](http://www.traqprogram.ca/library/BC-WNV-Blood-Action-Plan-2009.pdf)

WNV Blood Report updates are also posted on the TRAQ program website at:  
[www.traqprogram.ca](http://www.traqprogram.ca).

**Further detailed WNV surveillance information for British Columbia** is accessible on the BC Centre for Disease Control website at:  
[www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/a-z/w/WestNileVirus/Surveillance/WNV2009SurveillanceData.htm](http://www.bccdc.ca/dis-cond/a-z/w/WestNileVirus/Surveillance/WNV2009SurveillanceData.htm)

**Physicians are requested to report suspect cases of transfusion-transmitted WNV to Canadian Blood Services, BC Yukon Centre at 604-876-7219 (24 hour access line)**

<b>WNV risk category*</b>	<b>Description</b>
0	Baseline (very low level ) risk
1	Non human epidemiological evidence-based on regional avian, mosquito, or equine surveillance, which indicates the presence of WNV in a province from which BC imports blood products.
2	Human case(s) of WNV infection (public health-reported or in a blood donor) reported in a province from which BC imports blood products.
3	Reports of WNV in birds or mosquitoes in BC.
4	Human case(s) of WNV infection (public health-reported or in a blood donor) reported in BC.
5	Outbreak of WNV activity in humans in BC

\*adapted from BC WNV Blood Action Plan, 2009

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