

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPORTING, COLLECTION AND SHIPMENT OF DEAD BIRDS FOR WEST NILE VIRUS

Reporting:

1. Fill out “West Nile Virus Phone Message” for each call received. Reports should be filled out for birds of all species.
2. If bird is not being collected for testing, submit information online under “Report a Dead Bird.” Multiple birds reported from one location on one date may be grouped in a single submission.

Collecting:

From the pool of phone reports, select only birds of **desired species (corvids or raptors)** and **good body condition** to collect. Please follow these instructions for collecting carcasses to insure adequate and well-preserved specimens.

1. Use rubber gloves when picking up sick or dead animals. If you do not have gloves insert your hand into an inside-out plastic bag.
2. Enter collected bird information online under “Submit a Collected Bird for West Nile Testing.” One entry should be submitted for each bird. The information needed for each bird collected includes the following:
 - Species—must have an accurate species ID
 - Date bird found—Bird must be dead less than 24 hours
 - Location—Mailing address (No PO Boxes or Rural Routes) or specific location of where bird was found (e.g., 5 mi. W of Seward on US Hwy 34). Must also include nearest city, county, and zip code
 - Found dead or euthanized
 - Additional history can be included at the bottom of the page on the comments lines
 - Local ID number will be assigned to each bird after entering information and clicking the “Submit” button
3. **Print two copies of the “Submission Form” before closing the page** (one to be kept with the bird, the other for your records). **Results of submitted birds will be posted by their Local ID number** and can be viewed online under “View Testing Results.”
4. Place one “Submission Form” in a ziplock bag and place inside bag containing carcass. Carcass and paperwork must be in separate clear plastic bags. The submission form should always be associated with carcass.
5. Carcasses should be frozen immediately. When you collect animals take along a cooler containing ice and keep carcass frozen throughout shipping process. Freezing and thawing can make isolation of some pathogens difficult and damage tissues needed for microscopic examination. Get specimen to health department freezer as soon as possible.

Shipping:

1. Specimens should be shipped frozen in a styrofoam cooler containing dry ice or ice packs.
2. If multiple animals are being shipped at once place each in a clear plastic bag, tie shut, then place inside a second clear bag and tie shut (more than one individually bagged animal can be placed in the second bag). This system of double bagging prevents cross-contamination of individual specimens.
3. Using the provided shipping labels, ship to:

Veterinary Diagnostic Center
University of Nebraska- Lincoln
Fair Street and East Campus Loop
Lincoln, NE 68583-0905