Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE) Arboviral Encephaliditides

Disease Case Classification	**Includes:** Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE); Powassan Encephalitis; St. Louis Encephalitis; Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE).
Confirmed Case	Clinical illness[1] with laboratory confirmation of infection: ▪ Fourfold or greater increase in serum antibody titre between acute- and convalescent-phase serum specimens ideally taken at least 2 weeks apart and run in parallel at the same laboratory ▪ Isolation of virus from or demonstration of viral antigen or genomic sequences in tissue, blood, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), or other body fluid ▪ Specific immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibody by enzyme immunoassay (EIA) antibody captured in CSF or serum[2]
Probable Case	Clinical illness[1] occurring during a period when arboviral transmission is likely, and with a stable (less than or equal to twofold change) elevated antibody titre to an arbovirus[3]
National Surveillance	
Provincial Surveillance	Confirmed Cases (WEE confirmed and Probable)
Type of Surveillance	Case-by-Case
Comments	Reporting should be etiology-specific, that is i.e. Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), St. Louis Encephalitis, Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE)
Date of Development	June 2003

[1] Clinical illness is characterized by a febrile illness of variable severity associated with neurological symptoms ranging from headache to aseptic meningitis or encephalitis. Arboviral encephalitis cannot be distinguished clinically from other central nervous system (CNS) infections. Symptoms can include headache, confusion or other alteration in sensorium, nausea, and vomiting. Signs may include fever, meningismus, cranial nerve palsies, paresis or paralysis, sensory deficits, altered reflexes, convulsions, abnormal movements, and coma of varying degree.

[2] Serum IgM antibodies alone should be confirmed by demonstration of immunoglobulin G antibodies by another serologic assay (e.g., neutralization or hemagglutination inhibition).

[3] e.g. greater than or equal to 320 by hemagglutination inhibition, greater than or equal to 128 by complement fixation, greater than or equal to 256 by immunofluorescence, and greater than or equal to 160 by neutralization, or greater than or equal to 400 by enzyme immunoassay IgM).