



**Viral Encephalitis**  
**(Arbovirus)**  
**Revision 5-26-15**



**Missouri Dept of Health and Senior Services (800) 392-0272 (24 hours)**  
**State Public Health Laboratory (573) 751-3334 or (573) 522-1444**

**Contact the MSPHL at (573) 751-3334 or (800) 392-0272 (24 hours)**  
**to obtain specific shipping instructions.**

**Remember that these samples may be highly infectious! Extreme caution should be taken in collecting, preparing for shipment and transporting any material suspected of being contaminated with a biological agent.**

**Specimen Collection and Transport**

**Clinical Specimens:**

- Collect acute serum and CSF.
- Terminal/postmortem: Serum and pathology samples plus brain material if an autopsy is performed.
- Call the MSPHL for detailed instructions of specimen collection and transport.

**Signs and Symptoms:**

- Sudden onset of illness with generalized malaise, spiking fevers, rigors, severe headache, photophobia, and myalgias. Nausea, vomiting, cough, sore throat, and diarrhea may follow. Full recovery takes 1-2 weeks.
- Incubation period from 1-5 days.
- Standard precautions for healthcare workers.