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**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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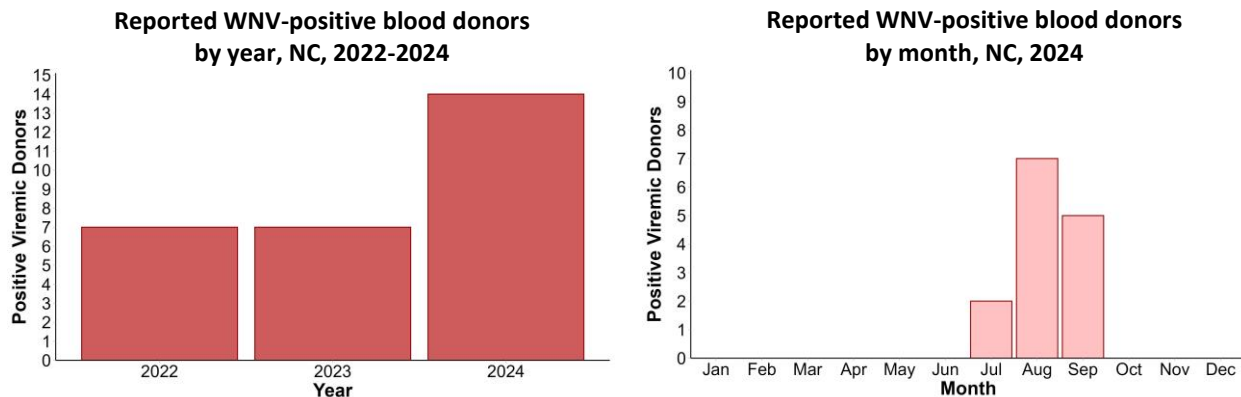
KELLY KIMPLE • Acting Director, Division of Public Health

To: North Carolina Blood Donation Centers
From: Emily Herring, DVM, PhD, Public Health Veterinarian
Subject: West Nile Virus Screening and Reporting
Date: June 30, 2025

The purpose of this letter is to remind all blood donation centers in North Carolina of the importance of maintaining strong West Nile Virus (WNV) screening protocols for blood donations. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [recommends](#) that blood collection agencies perform WNV screening year-round on all whole blood and blood components intended for transfusion using a licensed nucleic acid test (NAT). This testing helps identify viremic donors who may be asymptomatic, reducing the risk of WNV transmission through transfusions.

All WNV-positive results should be reported by donation centers to the North Carolina Division of Public Health in accordance with [10A NCAC 41A .0101](#). Please send lab reports and/or the NC Confidential Communicable Disease Report [form](#) to the **secure fax number 919-733-0490**. In conjunction with traditional case-based reporting, reports of viremic donors help us determine potential geographic areas of risk and better refine our prevention messaging.

West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne disease that is endemic to North Carolina and can be transmitted through blood transfusions. Existing screening programs help to minimize this risk. North Carolina saw a significant increase in WNV infections in 2024, and continued vigilance is crucial, particularly during the summer months.



Adhering to the FDA guidance and recommendations for WNV NAT screening is encouraged to protect the blood supply and ensure the safety of transfusion recipients. Prompt reporting of any suspected transfusion-associated WNV cases to the appropriate public health authorities is also vital for surveillance and response efforts.

Screening for WNV is essential to help protect the health of those who rely on blood transfusions. Thank you for your commitment to ensuring the safety of the blood supply.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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