



CENTER FOR VETERINARY BIOLOGICS NOTICE NO. 19-09

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

Center for Veterinary
Biologics

TO: Veterinary Services Leadership Team
Directors, Center for Veterinary Biologics
Biologics Licensees, Permittees, and Applicants

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Director

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SUBJECT: Availability of Newcastle Disease Isolate and Sequence Information

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this notice is to notify interested parties of the availability of genomic sequence from the U.S. virulent Newcastle disease (vNDV) virus isolated from backyard chickens in California in May 2018. The notice is also to inform interested parties that a vNDV isolate will be available for purchase from the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) by mid-September, 2019.

II. BACKGROUND

NVSL confirmed vNDV in a backyard exhibition chicken flock following presentation of sick birds to a veterinary clinic in Los Angeles County, California, on May 17, 2018. The outbreak is ongoing, with chickens remaining the predominant species affected; other species affected include quail, peafowl, and turkeys, as well as ducks, geese, parakeets, and pigeons. The California 2018 Newcastle disease virus is genotype Vb and is related to historic viruses from Central America and the U.S. (California 2002-2003).

Further information on the California 2018-2019 findings is available at:
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian/virulent-newcastle/vnd>

III. ACTION

Veterinary Services has released vNDV genomic sequences, and is making the index vNDV virus, courtesy of the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory, available to facilities to encourage disease research and development to benefit the U.S. poultry industry. The complete genomic sequences for selected vNDV viruses have been submitted to GenBank and are available under accessions MK040373-MK040383.

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Available isolate:

- chicken/California/D1806566/2018 – courtesy of the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory

Biologics firms that wish to obtain samples of these isolates for research purposes should:

A. Contact the NVSL Diagnostic Virology Laboratory at (515) 337-7551 for guidance regarding the appropriate forms and payments to submit.

B. Submit the completed forms and the payment associated with the order by one of the following methods:

1. Mail: NVSL User Fees, Box 844, Ames, Iowa 50010
2. Email: NVSL_concerns@aphis.usda.gov.

The NVSL will inform customers when the virus is ready to ship.

C. Note that the vNDV isolate must be transferred in compliance with the Select Agent Regulations. No Material Transfer Agreement will be required. This isolate is a not pre-tested Master Seed; it is being made available for research and development. The availability of this isolate does not infer any impending change in vaccination policy.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION/ APPLICABILITY

The vNDV sequence is posted in this announcement, and the referenced reagent will be made available upon request.