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# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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ELISA and PCR Tests for Avian Metapneumovirus Now Available at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

To whom it may concern:

The Arkansas Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (AVDL) at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture is now offering ELISA immunoassay and PCR tests to detect avian metapneumovirus (aMPV).

The aMPV subtype C is endemic in the United States, but subtypes A and B had not been seen until recently. New subtypes of aMPV have been found to cause upper respiratory and reproductive diseases in poultry including turkeys, broilers, layers, and breeders.

In light of these concerns, AVDL is now prepared to offer the following tests:

1. **Avian Pneumovirus ELISA (Idexx):** This serological assay detects an overall antibody titer for any of the three subtypes of aMPV. AVDL is collaborating with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (UAVDL) to offer this test at both laboratories. Please visit UAVDL's webpage ([aaes.uada.edu/technical-services/veterinary-diagnostic-lab/](https://aaes.uada.edu/technical-services/veterinary-diagnostic-lab/)) for additional information.
2. **Avian Metapneumovirus Real-time PCR (NVSL):** This testing consists of three separate PCR assays that will detect the presence of each of the three virus subtypes of aMPV (A, B, and C). These tests can be requested individually. At this time, these tests will be performed only at the AVDL.

For a current list of tests offered by the AVDL, fees, and estimated turnaround times, please refer to the *ARVDL List of Tests and Fees*, located on the lab's website at: [agriculture.arkansas.gov/livestock-poultry/veterinary-diagnostic-lab/forms-and-submissions/](https://agriculture.arkansas.gov/livestock-poultry/veterinary-diagnostic-lab/forms-and-submissions/).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the lab directly by email at [receiving@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:receiving@agriculture.arkansas.gov) or by phone at 501-823-1730.

Thank you for partnering with us in providing exceptional services to your fellow Arkansans.

Sincerely,

Sharon Pulla, Ph.D.  
Director of Laboratory Services  
Arkansas Department of Agriculture