



# The Review

NBIMC News, Updates, & Announcements  
December 2023

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NBIMC Staff and NIWC Staff members pictured in the image above taken during a Thanksgiving themed potluck celebrated during NIWC's visit to the NBIMC office on November 8th, 2023.

## NWIC's Annual Visit

Written By: Julia Wolfrey, MHA

**NBIMC is located on  
the NSA Bethesda  
campus in Bldg. 17B.**

**Hours:** 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Phone:** 301-295-6590

### E-mail:

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wrnmmbx.nbimc@health.mil](mailto:dha.bethesda.wrnmmbx.nbimc@health.mil)

### Department Head

Phone: 301-295-6590  
Bldg. 17B, 3rd floor,  
Suite 3G.

On November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, members of the Naval Informational Warfare Center (NIWC) traveled to the NBIMC office in Bethesda, MD, to discuss upcoming changes to the HIV Management System (HMS). During the visit, the NBIMC and NIWC teams reviewed all team member's individual duties in relation to HMS, and NIWC presented proposed refinements for the HMS data load to occur within the upcoming year. Additionally, the NBIMC team communicated obstacles experienced on the admin/user side of HMS and collaborated with NIWC staff to develop a list of solutions to resolve these matters. The NIWC staff were extremely responsive and reassuring. A Thanksgiving themed potluck also took place during the visit. During the event, NBIMC presented NIWC with an award to commend their achievements and successful Continuity of Operations (COOP) exercise with HMS, the first to occur in the entirety of the application's history. The award acknowledged NIWC's resilience and expansion of HMS operations outside of Walter Reed's Data Center. Overall, the visit was beneficial and advanced the capacity for HMS to achieve a state and structure to meet NBIMC's requirements and goals.

## Recent Updates



Image Info VIRIN: 230829-D-ZZ999-1001

### Frequently Discussed Topics

#### Military Treatment Facility (MTF) Selection Awareness

While all service members may be able to get testing at various MTF's, only the information from Navy, Marine Corps (MC), and Coast Guard (CG) facilities authorize automatic uploads to HMS, which automatically transmits readiness information to the Medical Readiness Reporting System (MRRS). Therefore, when any Navy, MC, or CG member visits another MTF branch (i.e., Air Force, Army), NBIMC receives a file that must be manually entered into HMS by NIWC, and this process can take up to 60 days for readiness information to appear in MRRS.

Additionally, visits for medical testing through civilian and non-DOD providers (i.e., VA, LabCorps) may be common for members located on smaller bases, working remotely and/or overseas due to limited MTF access. In these cases, NBIMC unfortunately cannot accept these tests, and they must be completed within a MTF to be accepted. NIWC is actively working on a solution to grant NBIMC freedom to upload members' readiness information when automatic uploads are not permissible, eliminating one step in the process.

#### Have questions regarding the NBIMC program?

[Service Offerings](#)

[Key Resources](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## CDD Holiday Hours of Operation

CDD will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1 in observance of the holidays. CDD's lab and client care departments will be open all other days for normal operating hours.

Click [here](#) to view the CDD Holiday Schedule (Dec 2023 – Jan 2024)

It is strongly advised to NOT ship samples to CDD on Saturday, December 23 and Saturday, December 30. Pausing shipments on these dates will help minimize the risk of samples expiring while in transit for 3 days.

All sites will receive a reminder email, reiterating the information above from CDD as well.



Image Info VIRIN: 221129-M-BI633-001

Contact CDD at: 877.233.1337 or email: [Military@cddmedical.com](mailto:Military@cddmedical.com)

For more questions, Please visit the NBIMC website [here](#)

# Announcements

## Deficiency Awareness

### D1 Pending versus D1 COR Deficiencies

Two types of D1 errors may occur when handling specimens awaiting testing, and CDD formulates and disseminates reports for both types of D1 deficiencies daily. Therefore, defining and understanding the differences between the D1 Pending and D1 COR deficiencies is essential for all employees to recognize the error(s) at hand to resolve the complication and prevent reoccurrence of the deficiency in the future. Limiting these deficiencies yields greater accuracy and minimizes wasted processing time.

**Please utilize the legend below when defining the D1 Pending deficiency from the D1 COR deficiency.**

| LEGEND          |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Deficiency Type | Definition   |
| D1 Pending      | Specimen received without an electronic order. The sample is on hold for 7 days awaiting an electronic order.          |
| D1 COR          | Testing lab requests for permission to discard specimens without electronic orders that have been held for over 7 days |

## Rejection Metric Reports

NBIMC has developed Rejection Metric Reports for all laboratory sites to track deficiency data. Reports are updated monthly by individual sites/UICs and running totals are updated to reflect 2023 summary data. Materials included within the reports are listed below.

- Total # of tests submitted per site/UIC
- Total # of rejections (D2-D9 deficiencies) per site/UIC
- Average percent rejects per site/UIC
- D4 reject totals broken down by D4 reject reasonings
- D1 COR errors & D1 COR % rejects per site/UIC

Rejection Metric Reports are **available upon request**. Submit a report request via email to NBIMC Program Analysts:

Ai Marrero - [ai.marrero.civ@health.mil](mailto:ai.marrero.civ@health.mil)

Julia Wolfrey - [julia.d.wolfrey.ctr@health.mil](mailto:julia.d.wolfrey.ctr@health.mil)

## World AIDS Month

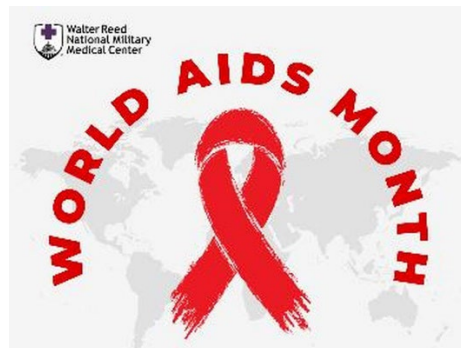


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December is World AIDS Month and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, is World AIDS Day. This event serves as an annual reminder for all to continually strive to eliminate stigma around HIV, to honor all individuals who lost the battle against HIV, and to inspire increased efforts to remove HIV as a threat to our public. At NBIMC, our mission is to contribute to the elimination of HIV as a public threat through support and implementation of biannual HIV testing requirements in the military.

Biannual HIV testing of Service members is an important strategy for HIV prevention. According to the Ending the HIV Epidemic in the US (EHE) initiative, accelerated progress in prevention can be achieved through early diagnosis of HIV infection in affected individuals who may have few or no symptoms and do not know of their status. The biannual HIV testing of Service members is in place to promote force readiness and protect the DOD's blood supply. It also allows HIV-infected individuals with few or no symptoms to know their status, be rapidly linked to medical care and treatment, and preserve health and wellness for affected Service members.



# Announcements cont.



## SST Counts

### Serum Separator Tube (SSTs) Counts Awareness

CDD recently reported an increased number of sites with considerably low SST counts in comparison to the regular, expected counts. CDD utilizes a tracking system that traces all supplies sent to sites and every sample sent and received from various sites. It is expected that the specimen counts would closely match SST counts. When analyzing specimen data and SST counts, it is anticipated to receive bad draws or “sticks” on occasion, but CDD has announced that a few sites are currently falling short of 100+ or 200+ SST’s. This information does not apply to larger sites that provide supplies to smaller satellite clinics.

To address this matter CDD encourages all sites to return DD250 documentation after confirming that all supplies have been sent and delivered. By complying with these efforts, sites will yield more accurate SST counts while simultaneously ruling out human error and any potential FedEx delivery complications.

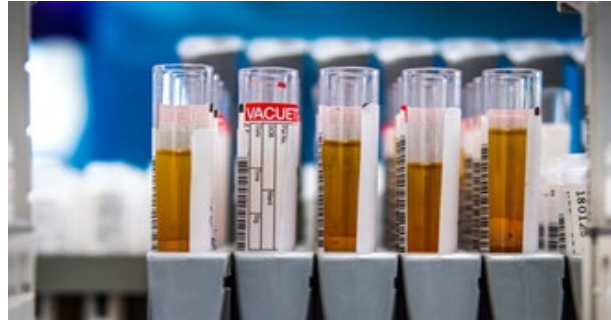


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