

La Crosse Virus



Infectious Disease
Epidemiology &
Prevention Division

What is La Crosse Virus?

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La Crosse virus (LACV) is a rare mosquito-borne disease that primarily affects children. LACV is most commonly spread through the bites of *Aedes triseriatus* mosquitoes, which are found in all Indiana counties. Most people do not develop symptoms when infected with LACV, but severe illness can occur and is much more common among children under the age of 16.

What are the symptoms of La Crosse Virus?

Most people infected with LACV do not develop any symptoms. About 5–15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito, individuals infected with LACV may experience:

- Fever
- Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Fatigue

The following severe symptoms are rare, but more common among children under the age of 16:

- Encephalitis (inflammation of the brain)
- Seizures

Less than 1% of LACV infections are fatal, but some people may experience persistent complications after recovery.

Did You Know?

LACV often occurs in small, localized "hot spots." Because local mosquito populations may remain infected around specific environments, multiple people associated with the same home or property have become infected over time.

Diagnosis

Healthcare providers diagnose LACV based on symptoms and laboratory testing results. If you think you or a family member have LACV, contact your healthcare provider.

Treatment

There is no medication available to treat LACV. Patients experiencing severe cases of LACV often require supportive care and/or rehabilitation to manage symptoms.

Prevention

The best way to prevent LACV is through mosquito bite prevention methods, including EPA-registered repellents, protective clothing, limiting time outdoors at dusk and at dawn, and indoor barriers. Filling treeholes and dumping containers (bird baths, gutters, etc.) around the home, which serve as *Aedes triseriatus* breeding sites, can also reduce LACV risk.



Use EPA-
registered
insect
repellent



Wear long,
loose-fitting
shirts and
pants



Limit time
outside around
dusk and
around dawn



Dump standing
water and fill
tree holes
around the home

More Information

For more information on La Crosse virus, visit the IDOH La Crosse virus webpage.

