

La Crosse encephalitis is caused by the bite of a mosquito infected with La Crosse virus. **Fortunately most mosquito bites will not cause illness and do not result in an infection.** However, some people (mostly children) do become ill. Symptoms typically appear 3-7 days after the mosquito bite. Most people that become sick typically have mild symptoms such as fever, headache, nausea, and vomiting. In some cases, the disease worsens and is associated with confusion, loss of consciousness, seizures, and possibly death.



The eastern tree hole mosquito (above) is the primary vector of La Crosse virus. Photo Credit: James Gathany (CDC)

Most people who are diagnosed with La Crosse encephalitis will make a full recovery, although some persons may experience a range of side effects for several years after the acute illness. Children less than 15 years old have the highest risk for developing illness.

Unfortunately, there are no specific treatments or vaccines for La Crosse infection. However, doctors can supportively treat the severe symptoms of the infection, including seizures and breathing complications.

PREVENTION IS KEY!

Use an insect repellent [approved](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Note: Apply the repellent according to the directions on the label

Avoid being outside during peak biting times (dusk and dawn).

Note: The mosquitoes that often carry La Crosse virus are active during the daytime

Wear protective clothing such as socks, lightweight long-sleeve shirts, long pants

Reduce “breeding” sites around your house—mosquitoes need standing water in order to complete their development. Remove any standing water by disposing of tires, pots, jars, or any other container capable of holding water.

Repair screen windows and doors to keep the mosquitoes outside



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For more information about La Crosse virus: <http://www.cdc.gov/lac/>