

SC DHEC Bureau of Laboratories 2015 La Crosse Virus Cases

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California Serogroup Viruses include California encephalitis, Jamestown Canyon, Keystone, La Crosse, Snowshoe hare and Trivittatus viruses.

La Crosse (LAC) virus is one of a group of mosquito-transmitted viruses that can cause encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain. LAC encephalitis is rare; in the United States, about 80-100 LAC disease cases are reported each year. LAC virus is a zoonotic pathogen cycled between the daytime-biting treehole mosquito, *Aedes triseriatus*, and vertebrate amplifier hosts (chipmunks, tree squirrels) in deciduous forest habitats.

The incubation period for LAC disease (the time from infected mosquito bite to onset of illness) ranges from 5 to 15 days. LAC disease is usually characterized by fever (usually lasting 2-3 days), headache, nausea, vomiting, tiredness, and reduced activity or alertness. Severe disease affecting the nervous system occurs most frequently in children under the age of 16.

Although seizures during the acute illness are common, fatal cases are rare (<1%) and most patients seem to recover completely. Long-term effects resulting from the initial disease may include recurrent seizures, partial paralysis of one side of the body, and cognitive and neurobehavioral abnormalities; these long-term effects vary in duration.

