



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Angela Toth, 330-627-4866 ext. 1559

Carroll County General Health District

First Confirmed Case of La Crosse Encephalitis Reported in Carroll County, Ohio Carrollton, Ohio

The Carroll County General Health District has confirmed the first human case of **La Crosse Encephalitis virus (LACV)** in Carroll County for the **2025 season**. The individual affected is a child from Carroll County who was hospitalized and is now recovering. To note, there were only 35 cases across the nation in 2024 and only 5 cases in three other states to date in 2025 (North Carolina, Tennessee and Missouri).

La Crosse Encephalitis is a severe brain infection caused by a certain type of Mosquito. This case highlights the ongoing presence of mosquito-borne diseases in our region. Public health officials are urging all residents to take steps to prevent mosquito bites and eliminate standing water around homes and neighborhoods.

“La Crosse virus is a serious illness, particularly in children, and this confirmed case serves as a reminder that mosquito prevention is critical,” said Kelly Morris, Health Commissioner. “Simple actions like using repellent and dumping standing water can help protect families from mosquito-borne diseases.”

About La Crosse Encephalitis:

La Crosse Encephalitis is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by the **eastern treehole mosquito** (*Aedes triseriatus*), commonly found in wooded areas and containers holding water. Old unrimmed tires are one of the most common sources for mosquito breeding. Most infections are mild, but in rare cases—especially in children—severe illness involving inflammation of the brain can occur.

Common Symptoms Include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Lethargy or confusion
- Seizures (in severe cases)

There is no specific treatment for La Crosse Encephalitis infection, and severe cases may require hospitalization for supportive care.



Protect Yourself and Your Family:

- **Use insect repellent** with DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.
- **Wear long-sleeved clothing** and pants when outdoors, especially at dawn and dusk.
- **Eliminate standing water** in flowerpots, tires, gutters, birdbaths, and toys.
- **Repair window and door screens** to keep mosquitoes out of your home.

Community Resources:

The Carroll County General Health District is partnering with Carroll County Township Trustees to collect old tires, a common breeding location for mosquitoes. County residents will be able to recycle unwanted tires through their township for free. Proper tire disposal is key to reducing the mosquito population in the county.

Additionally, the Carroll County General Health District collects mosquitoes in the summer and fall months to test for diseases like West Nile Virus and La Crosse Viruses. Due to a confirmed La Crosse case, we are increasing mosquito surveillance across the county.

Have lots of mosquitoes on your property? We can set up a mosquito surveillance trap in your yard at no cost. For questions about mosquito surveillance, setting up a trap, or tire disposal, please call us at **330-627-4866**.

Stay Informed and Report Symptoms:

Anyone experiencing symptoms consistent with encephalitis, particularly children with neurological changes such as confusion, lethargy, or seizures - should seek medical care immediately.

Healthcare providers are reminded to consider all viral vector-borne diseases in patients with viral meningitis or encephalitis, especially in children, and to report cases to the Carroll County General Health District at 330-627-4866 ext 1530.

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