

For Health Professionals

Health Alerts

Health Advisory #90 - California serogroup LaCrosse Virus found in Mosquito Sample - July 28, 2004

California serogroup LaCrosse Virus found in Mosquito Sample in Erie County

Erie County has its first positive California serogroup LaCrosse Virus mosquito sample. On July 22nd, the Erie County Health Department was notified that a mosquito sample, collected on June 15, 2004 in Erie County, was found to be positive for the California serotype LaCrosse Virus. The mosquito sample was identified as *Aedes vexans*, a prolific human biter. Four other counties in New York State, including two in the Western Region, have found the California serogroup.

The LaCrosse Virus can infect humans. LaCrosse encephalitis is a rare disease that is spread by infected mosquitoes and occurs mostly in children under the age of 16 years. The incubation period is from 5 to 15 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. LaCrosse encephalitis is usually a mild illness, with fever, headache, nausea, vomiting and tiredness.

Persons who are at an increased risk are children, people who live in or visit woodland habitats and people who work outside or participate in outdoor recreational activities. Prevention is the control of mosquitoes and the prevention of bites.

The Erie County Health Department is asking physicians and other healthcare providers to contact the Health Department if an encephalitis case is suspected at 716-858-7697 (Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:00PM) or 716-898-4225 (evenings, weekends, and holidays).

More information on LaCrosse Encephalitis and other forms of mosquito-borne viral encephalitis can be found at

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/arboinfo.htm> and
<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/ento>

Information of Mosquito bite prevention can be found at

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/westnile/pdf/2731.pdf>