

## Remember ...

The yard that's  
neater, beats the  
'skeeter'.



**Division of  
Surveillance &  
Disease Control**

For More Information ...

**Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program**

Bureau for Public Health  
West Virginia Department of  
Health and Human Resources  
350 Capitol Street, Room 125  
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Phone: (304) 558-5358  
Toll-Free: 1-800-423-1271  
[www.wvdhhr.org/idep/](http://www.wvdhhr.org/idep/)

or

Contact your local health department

LaCrosse  
Encephalitis

Treehole  
Mosquitoes  
and



West  
Virginia  
Children



# LaCrosse Encephalitis

LaCrosse encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) is caused by a virus spread only by the bite of the Treehole Mosquito.

Children and adults get sick between July and October when the Treehole Mosquito is most active.

The virus most often affects children under age 16. Symptoms include:

Headache;

- Fever;
- Nausea;
- Vomiting;
- Drowsiness; and,
- Disorientation.

In severe cases, seizures or coma may occur. LaCrosse is rarely fatal, but usually requires hospitalization.

Each year, 75-100 cases are reported nationwide. More cases occur in West Virginia than in any other state, approximately 50 cases per year.

## The Treehole Mosquito

Ochlerotatus (Aedes) triseriatus

The Treehole Mosquito breeds only in containers that hold water. Water-holding cavities in trees are its natural habitat, but man-made containers also are important breeding sites.



Old tires, buckets, cans, bottles, planters, tire swings, toys, pet water bowls and any other kind of container that holds water make especially good breeding sites for the Treehole Mosquito.

## Prevent LaCrosse Encephalitis



Remove anything that can hold water from around your yard or where children play.

Use mosquito repellents containing DEET, picaridin

or oil of lemon eucalyptus sparingly on children before they play outdoors. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children less than 3 years of age (source: *Centers for Disease Control*).

**NEVER** apply repellents to the face or hands of children, and wash children with soap and warm water when they come back in the house.

**Carefully** read and follow the label directions when using repellents.

If your children will be in a known high mosquito area, make sure they wear socks, shoes, light-colored long pants and long sleeves.