

LA CROSSE VIRUS IN THE NORTHEAST USA

LA CROSSE VIRUS

- A virus that can be spread by mosquitoes.
 - Affects 50-150 humans every year in the U.S.
 - Mainly in the Midwest and Appalachian regions.
 - Can be particularly harmful to children.
 - Symptoms include headache, fever, vomiting, and confusion which can lead to seizures, coma, and death.
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THE ORGANISMS INVOLVED

- Eastern tree hole mosquito (*Aedes triseriatus*) is the main mosquito that spreads the virus.
 - Chipmunks and squirrels are the main reservoir hosts of the virus. This means they can carry the virus, not get sick from it, and infect other species.
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STUDY PURPOSE

- To look at how common La Crosse virus is in mosquito populations in Connecticut.
 - To learn more about the virus lineage, or ancestry, in Connecticut.
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LA CROSSE VIRUS FINDINGS

- 14 individual mosquitoes tested positive for the virus.
 - Overall, there is low prevalence of the virus in Connecticut.
 - The virus was found in two new species of mosquitoes (*Aedes cinereus* & *Aedes trivittatus*).
 - The virus strains in Connecticut were most similar to virus strains common in New York.
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NEXT STEPS

- More research and awareness is needed on La Crosse virus, mosquitoes that can spread it, and risk to public health in different regions of the U.S.

