



HAYWOOD COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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Talmadge Stone Blevins, Director

Public Health	828-452-6675	Social Services	828-452-6620
Dental Office	828-452-6701	Meals on Wheels	828-356-2442
Environmental Health	828-452-6682	Maple Leaf Adult Respite	828-456-9488

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2016

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LA CROSSE ENCEPHALITIS CONFIRMED IN HAYWOOD COUNTY, NC
CLYDE, NC—Haywood County Health Director, Patrick Johnson, recently confirmed that a resident of Haywood County was diagnosed with La Crosse Encephalitis Virus (LACV). The patient, following a lengthy 19 day hospital stay, was released and is recovering at home. “It is critical to get rid of mosquito breeding sites,” says Johnson. Some suggestions include emptying standing water from flower pots, buckets, barrels, and tires. Change the water in pet dishes and replace the water in bird baths often.

The mosquitoes that spread LACV are most active during the daytime and twilight hours. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), “the best way to reduce your risk of infection with LACV or other mosquito-borne viruses is to use insect repellent (containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535), wear long sleeves, long pants and socks or stay indoors while mosquitoes are most active.” Mosquitoes can lay eggs even in small amounts of standing water. Humans can become infected with LACV from the bite of an infected mosquito.

According to the CDC, “approximately 80-100 cases of LACV are reported each year in the United States and most occur in children under 16 years of age.” Many people infected with LACV have no apparent symptoms. Those who become ill, usually within 5-15 days of exposure, may experience fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, and fatigue. Some of those who become ill will develop severe neuroinvasive disease (disease that affects the nervous system) which often involves encephalitis (an inflammation of the brain) and can include seizures, coma, paralysis and, in rare cases, long-term disability or death. There is no specific antiviral treatment for LACV infection. Most often people are hospitalized and care is based on symptom management. “Awareness, education and prevention are key,” says Johnson. If you or a family member has symptoms of LACV disease or any symptoms causing you concern, promptly consult a healthcare provider for proper diagnosis.

For further information regarding La Crosse Encephalitis Virus, contact the Haywood County Health Department at 828-452-6675 or go to <https://www.cdc.gov/lac/index.html>.

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