

What you should know about ST. LOUIS ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS (SLEV)

WHAT IS ST. LOUIS ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS (SLEV)?

St. Louis Encephalitis virus (SLEV) circulates between mosquitoes and birds in nature. It is spread to people by the bites of infected culex mosquitoes. SLEV is in the same virus family as West Nile virus (WNV), with similar symptoms and transmission, but is less common in California. For some people, SLEV can cause inflammation of the brain (encephalitis).

HOW DO PEOPLE GET SLEV?



People can get infected with SLEV through the bites of infected culex mosquitoes. A mosquito becomes infected after biting a bird that is infected with the virus.

It is not spread from person to person.

HOW IS SLEV TREATED?

There are currently **no vaccines or medicines to prevent or treat SLEV**, but health care providers can recommend treatments to aid recovery, including fluids, rest and medication for pain or fever.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Most people who are infected will not experience symptoms, but those who do typically have mild symptoms that may include:



Fever



Headache



Nausea

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WHAT IS SEVERE SLEV?

Although everyone is at risk for SLEV, people over 50 years of age and those with underlying health conditions are at greater risk of more serious symptoms and sometimes death. Severe SLEV affects the brain and nervous system and can cause:

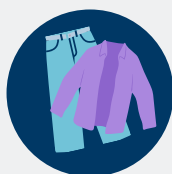
- Stiff neck
- Confusion
- Dizziness
- Altered level of consciousness

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

Take these steps to reduce mosquito populations and protect yourself from mosquito bites:



Remove standing water around home



Cover your arms and legs when outdoors



Use an EPA-registered insect repellent



Cover windows and doors with screens

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

For more information, people are encouraged to visit:

[Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services: St. Louis Encephalitis \(SLEV\)](#)

[Long Beach Health Department Vector Control](#)

[Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District](#)

[California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control & Prevention \(CDC\)](#)