

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION	NC DISEASE CODE	INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
ENCEPHALITIS ARBOVIRAL, LACROSSE	96	<i>Lacrosse Virus</i>
PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION		
KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about Encephalitis Arboviral, Lacrosse in the CD Manual. • See the case definition for Encephalitis Arboviral, Lacrosse in the CD Manual. • Study APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19th ed., pp 34 - 46. • Print and review reporting forms: <i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: Encephalitis Arboviral, Lacrosse (DHHS/EPI #96)</i> 	
CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION		
COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, lab report(s), and discharge summary). • Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition. • Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition. 	
REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease or facilitate testing through the SLPH if needed. • Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied. • Contact healthcare provider if further testing of the patient is indicated. 	
APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria. 	
IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES		
ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review clinical records for potential source(s) of exposure. • If probable source of exposure is not evident in clinical information, interview patient to obtain additional information. 	
IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the CDC website www.cdc.gov to teach at risk people about the disease. • Alert the local health director, environmental health specialist and mosquito control officials to the existence of case and encourage mosquito control measures. 	

REPORTING INVESTIGATION	
REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered. • Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete. • Do an "Event_Print" in NC EDSS after assigning to the state. Keep for one year along with any additional notes. Maintain as a surveillance file, not a medical record.
CASE FINDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the course of the investigation, look for symptoms of disease in other exposed individuals. • Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation. • If two or more cases are epidemiologically linked, report as an outbreak of Encephalitis, Arboviral, Lacrosse. • If indicated, submit an outbreak summary report within 30 days from close of outbreak.
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media interest may be piqued by this disease, especially if hospitalization or death occurs. Consider verifying the laboratory test results by sending specimen(s) to the SLPH/CDC for reference testing.
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enteric precautions appropriate until enterovirus meningoencephalitis (see viral meningitis) is ruled out. Not transmitted from person to person except rarely by transfusion.
RISK COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider using risk communication tools conservatively if this is a low profile, naturally-occurring case. • Outbreaks will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and probably a press release. • NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.