

# JAMESTOWN CANYON VIRUS



Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) disease is a rare illness spread to humans by mosquitoes. JCV is closely related to La Crosse encephalitis virus. In Wisconsin, the number of cases of JCV has increased recently. JCV is uncommon and it sometimes does not cause symptoms. For these reasons, testing for JCV is not widely available. JCV infections are most common in Wisconsin during the months of June through September, or when mosquitoes are most active.



## What causes it?

- ▶ Mosquitoes get JCV by feeding on infected animals, and then spread it to humans by biting them. It is believed that white-tailed deer are common carriers of the virus and can spread it to mosquitoes.
- ▶ It is not known which mosquitoes most commonly spread JCV to humans in Wisconsin, but it is most likely more than one species.
- ▶ JCV cannot be spread person to person.
- ▶ Once a person has had JCV, they cannot get it again.



## What are the signs and symptoms?

Many people infected with JCV have no signs or symptoms. When someone does have symptoms they may have:

### Mild Symptoms

- ▶ Fever
- ▶ Headache
- ▶ Body aches
- ▶ Tiredness

### Severe Symptoms

- ▶ Swelling of the brain and spinal cord
- ▶ Memory loss
- ▶ Confusion



## What are the treatment options?

There is no vaccine for JCV. Over-the-counter pain medications can be used to reduce fever and ease symptoms. In severe cases a person may have to go to the hospital to receive fluids, pain medication, or other treatment for symptoms.



## How can it be prevented?

Follow these steps to reduce your risk of being bitten by a mosquito:

- ▶ Wear insect repellent with 20–30% DEET, 10–20% picaridin, 10–20% IR3535, or 30–40% OLE. Use 0.5% permethrin on clothes. Find the right [repellent for you](#) on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website. Follow directions on manufacturer's label.
- ▶ When outdoors, wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, high socks, and closed-toe shoes. Use insect repellent on clothes, since mosquitoes can bite through clothing.
- ▶ Use screens on windows and doors of your home, and check that there are no holes in them.
- ▶ Get rid of standing water around your home where mosquitoes can breed. At least once a week, empty and scrub, cover, or throw out items that hold water, such as tires, buckets, birdbaths, or pet bowls. Make sure to regularly unclog roof gutters as well.
- ▶ Limit time spent outdoors when mosquitoes are biting.

