

# LYMPHOCYTIC CHORIOMENINGITIS VIRUS

## INFORMATION FOR PET OWNERS

---

Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus (LCMV) is a viral infection in mice, but it can also be carried by other rodents such as hamsters, gerbils and guinea pigs. Breeding populations of mice can become infected, which can lead to feeder mice having the virus.



Recently, there has been a problem with mice in some Indiana pet stores being infected with LCMV and some of these mice have also been found in Ohio.

Infected rodents can pass the disease to humans, but it cannot pass from human to human. This virus is most dangerous to pregnant women and people with weak immune systems.

### STEPS FOR PREVENTION

- Take extra precautions when handling pet rodents and their cages and bedding, wearing gloves when possible.
- Always wash your hands with soap and water (and watch young children to make sure they wash their hands) after handling animals, cages or bedding
- Keep rodent cages clean; change the bedding often.
- Clean the cage in a well-ventilated area or outside.
- Never kiss pet rodents or hold them close to your face.
- Pregnant women or people with weak immune systems should avoid all contact with rodents including being in the same room where a rodent lives.
- If you use frozen rodents to feed another pet, always wear plastic gloves when handling the rodents and wash your hands after.
- Avoid contact with wild rodents as they can also carry the virus.

### MORE INFORMATION

Visit [www.publichealth.columbus.gov](http://www.publichealth.columbus.gov) or call (614)645-1474, option 2

---

COLUMBUS PUBLIC HEALTH  
240 Parsons Ave, Columbus, OH 43215



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;  
Ohio Department of Health; 8/2012

COLUMBUS  
PUBLIC HEALTH