



CHIKUNGUNYA FEVER

What is chikungunya?

Chikungunya (CHIK) (pronounced chi-kun-goon-ya) is a mosquito-borne viral disease that originated in Africa. In December 2013, 70 human cases of CHIK were reported in Saint Martin in the Caribbean. This was the first time **locally transmitted** CHIK has been recorded in the Americas. By June 2014, over 4500 confirmed cases of CHIK have been reported from 19 Caribbean countries including Haiti and Dominican Republic. In the United States, 57 **imported** cases of CHIK have been reported. 60% of these cases were reported by the state of Florida. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) anticipates the spread of CHIK in the United States. Taking precautionary measures to prevent the spread of CHIK is critical.

How does chikungunya spread?

Chikungunya virus is spread by the bite of an infected Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) or a yellow fever mosquito (*Ae. aegypti*), which are both daytime-feeding mosquito species.

What are the symptoms of chikungunya?

In addition to extreme fatigue, symptoms of CHIK include:

- Fever up to 40°C (104°F)
- Rash of the trunk/limbs
- Arthritis affecting multiple joints
- Other nonspecific symptoms can include headache, nausea, vomiting, conjunctivitis, slight photophobia and partial loss of taste

How soon do people get sick?

Symptoms manifest themselves 2-12 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

How is chikungunya infection treated?

There is NO cure or vaccine for this virus. There are medications to treat the symptoms. **Consult a health care provider.**



Aedes albopictus and *Ae. aegypti* mosquitoes can be distinguished from each other by the presence of a white stripe on the thorax of *Ae. albopictus* (right).

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What can I do to prevent chikungunya?

Protect yourself and fellow members: Use mosquito repellent containing 20-30% DEET or picaridin, and wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors. Avoid activity during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

Check your environment: Eliminate any standing water in your area (e.g. in flower pots, tires, buckets, etc.). Ensure window/door screens are intact to prevent inviting mosquitoes into households. These steps will ensure that breeding areas for both mosquito species are minimized.

How CHIK is spread in a community

