



Indiana State  
Department of Health  
Epidemiology Resource Center

## Quick Facts

### **About...Chikungunya Virus**

#### **What is Chikungunya virus?**

Chikungunya virus is a virus that is spread by mosquitoes. This virus may cause severe illness in people.

#### **How is Chikungunya virus spread?**

Mosquitoes spread the disease by biting a person who has the virus, and then biting another person. People who are sick with Chikungunya virus should avoid being bitten by more mosquitoes for at least one week to prevent spread to others. People bitten by a mosquito carrying the virus may show signs from 1 to 12 days after being bitten. The virus cannot be spread directly from person to person.

#### **Who is at risk for Chikungunya virus?**

People who travel to areas where the virus is found are at risk of getting Chikungunya virus. Currently, there is an outbreak of Chikungunya virus disease in the Caribbean and northern South America. The virus has also been found in Africa, Asia, islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, Italy and France. People over 65 years of age and those with other medical problems are at a higher risk for developing severe disease.

#### **How do I know if I have Chikungunya virus?**

You cannot tell without seeing your doctor. Your doctor will complete an exam and lab testing to see if you have Chikungunya virus.

## **What are the symptoms of Chikungunya virus?**

Most people who get Chikungunya virus will show symptoms. Common signs are a fever of 102 degrees or more and pain in the joints. The hands and feet are most frequently affected. Other symptoms may include headache, muscle pain, arthritis, conjunctivitis, nausea, vomiting, or a rash.

## **How is Chikungunya virus treated?**

There is no specific treatment for Chikungunya virus. Medicine may be given to help with the fever and joint pains. There is no vaccine.

## **How is Chikungunya virus prevented?**

When traveling, know if the virus is present in the areas you visit. The spread of Chikungunya virus can be stopped by avoiding mosquito bites. Don't go outdoors during prime mosquito biting times, especially early morning, late afternoon and dusk to dawn. If you have to be outdoors during these times, put on bug spray containing DEET, Picaridin, IR-3535 or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. You should also wear shirts with long sleeves and pants. You can also protect your family by removing any amount of standing water around your home.

- Take old tires to a tire recycling center or cover them so they do not collect rain water;
- Throw away tin cans, plastic bowls, ceramic pots, or other unused items that can hold water;
- Repair failed septic systems;
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling tubs left outdoors;
- Keep grass cut short and shrubs trimmed;
- Clean clogged roof gutters;
- Flush fountains and bird baths at least once a week; and
- Aerate ornamental ponds or stock them with fish.

All information presented is intended for public use. For more information, please refer to: <http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya> or

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