

# IDRS Infectious Disease Reporting System

Disease Reporting 24 Hours a Day

Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health

## CHIKUNGUNYA

Chikungunya virus is a virus carried by mosquitoes. The name comes from an African word meaning "that which bends," describing a person bent in pain from the characteristic severe joint pain.

### Symptoms

Symptoms develop within 3 to 7 days of a mosquito bite. They include:

- high fever (usually above 102°)
- severe joint pain
- headache, nausea/vomiting
- rash
- Most people get better within 7-10 days, but joint pain may persist or relapse for months. It is rarely fatal.



### Transmission

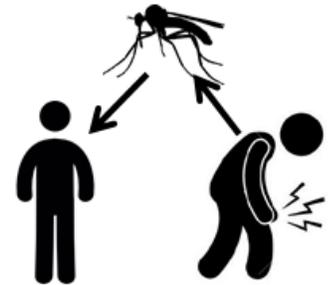
- Chikungunya is transmitted to people by the bite of a mosquito that is infected with the virus. The mosquito becomes infected with when it bites a person who has chikungunya virus in their blood.
- Humans cannot spread chikungunya to one another. The virus only travels through mosquitoes.
- Chikungunya is common in tropical areas of Asia and Africa, but arrived in the Caribbean in 2013 and has been spreading in the Americas. The type of mosquito that spreads the virus lives in many areas of the United States, including Ohio.

### Treatment

- Let your health care provider know of any recent travel. Blood samples may have to be sent to special labs for testing.
- There is no cure, so treatment is aimed at treating the symptoms.

### Prevention

- People with chikungunya MUST stay indoors for 7 days to avoid being bitten by mosquitos. Mosquitos could become infected and cause an outbreak.
- Prevent mosquito bites especially when traveling to areas where chikungunya is common. This type of mosquito bites at any time of the day or night.
  - Use mosquito repellents on skin and clothing.
  - If weather permits, wear long pants, long sleeves, and/or socks when outdoors.
  - Stay in screened or air conditioned areas whenever possible.
- Reduce mosquito breeding sites by covering or discarding items that collect water outdoors (for example, plastic containers, buckets, or used tires). Empty containers of standing water weekly.



All information is general in nature and is not intended to be used as a substitute for appropriate professional advice.



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