

Chikungunya

1. What is Chikungunya?

Chikungunya is a disease caused by a virus that spreads to people by mosquito bites. It causes illness mostly among people living in the Caribbean, Africa, Southern Europe, Southeast Asia, islands in the Indian and Pacific Ocean, and Central and South America. In July 2014, this disease was found for the first time in the United States causing illness among people living in Florida.

2. How does this disease spread?

Chikungunya is spread by a type of mosquito that bites during daytime. Mosquitos in Los Angeles County currently do not spread this disease. You are most likely to get this disease when visiting areas where this disease happens more often among the people living there (the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and Central and South America).

3. What are the symptoms of this disease?

Symptoms of illness from this disease are fever and severe joint pains, mostly in the hands and feet. These begin 3–7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Other symptoms include headache, muscle pain, joint swelling, or rash. Some people get joint pain that can last for months. People rarely die from this disease. See your doctor if you think you or someone from your family has this disease.

4. How is this disease treated?

There are no medicines to treat this disease and there are no vaccines to avoid getting this disease. There are medicines to help with fever and pain.

5. How can you prevent getting this disease?

The best way to prevent getting Chikungunya is to avoid mosquito bites, especially when visiting the Caribbean and other places known to have this disease. Use mosquito repellents (bug spray) and wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants or clothing specially treated to avoid mosquito bites.



Key Points:

- Chikungunya is a disease that spreads to people from mosquito bites and is found mostly in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and Central and South America.
- Avoid mosquito bites if visiting areas known to have this disease.
- Mosquitoes in Los Angeles County currently do not spread this disease.
- There is no medicine to treat this disease and no vaccine to avoid getting this disease.
- Symptoms are fever and joint pain. People rarely die from this disease.

For more information:

Los Angeles County,
Department of Public Health
www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/vectorChikungunya.htm

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
www.cdc.gov/Chikungunya

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