

Chikungunya

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Chikungunya Latest News

The New York State Department of Health recently confirmed the first locally acquired case of chikungunya in the United States in over six years.

About Chikungunya

- It is a **mosquito-borne viral disease** caused by the **chikungunya virus (CHIKV)**.
- It **causes fever and severe joint pain**.
- It was **first described** during an outbreak in **southern Tanzania in 1952** and has **now** been reported in **more than 110 countries in Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Europe**.
- The **name “chikungunya”** derives from a word in the Kimakonde language of southern Tanzania, **meaning “that which bends up”** and describes the **stooped appearance of infected people** with severe joint pain (arthralgia).

Chikungunya Transmission

- It is transmitted to humans by the **bites of infected female mosquitoes**, most commonly *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes.
- These two species can also transmit other viruses, including dengue and Zika viruses.
- It is **not transmitted from one person to another**. (i.e., it is **not a contagious disease**).

Chikungunya Symptoms

- In symptomatic patients, CHIKV **disease onset is typically 4-8 days (range 2-12 days) after the bite** of an infected mosquito.
- The most **common symptom** is an abrupt **onset of fever**, often accompanied by **joint pain**.
- Other symptoms include muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue, and rash.
- **Severe joint pain usually lasts a few days but can persist for months or even years.**
- **Serious complications are uncommon**, but atypical severe cases can cause long-term symptoms and even death, especially in older people and in children under one year old.

Chikungunya Treatment

- There is **no vaccine or antiviral drug treatment** for chikungunya.
- **Treatment is focused on relieving the symptoms.**

Source: **FE**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/chikungunya/>

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