

CHIKUNGUNYA

Chikungunya is seldom fatal and it cannot be spread by humans or animals. Chikungunya is a virus that can be transmitted by two types of mosquitoes prevalent in Florida: the *Aedes albopictus* (Asian Tiger mosquito), and *Aedes aegypti* (Yellow Fever mosquito). The mosquitoes are “day biters” and are drawn to standing water.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- Flu-like symptoms
- Headache
- High fever
- Muscle pain
- Joint pain
- Joint swelling or rashes

- Pronunciation: “chik-en-GUN-ya.”
- The Chikungunya virus is seldom fatal and cannot be spread by humans or animals. It usually resolves on its own.
- It can be transmitted by two types of mosquitoes prevalent in Florida: the *Aedes albopictus* (Asian Tiger mosquito) and *Aedes aegypti* (Yellow Fever mosquito). These small, black-and-silver insects bite during the day.
- Flu-like symptoms include high fever and joint pain. Other symptoms may include headache, muscle pain, joint swelling or rash.
- All ages are at risk. Children and seniors are not more susceptible; however, they are likely to suffer more serious symptoms. Animals are not affected.
- There is no vaccine or medication available to prevent infection, and the virus can only be treated symptomatically.
- Until now, Chikungunya was contracted outside the continental United States, mainly in Africa, the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia. For the first time, however, two locally transmitted cases were recently reported in Florida.
- The individuals in the two locally transmitted Florida cases were bitten by an infective mosquito that acquired the virus locally (probably from someone coming from the Caribbean).



IMPORTANT FACTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- **These mosquitoes are “day-biters.”** Unlike other mosquitoes we typically see here in Central Florida, the small, black-and-silver insects are active from dawn to dusk and typically rest at night. They can go from egg to adult in seven days.
- **Drawn to standing water.** Also, unlike other mosquitoes, they are not drawn to large bodies of water such as lakes or retention ponds. They breed in containers.
- **Clean out items that collect water.** Areas close to homes, schools and playgrounds should be kept clear of standing water: gutters, flat roofs, tire swings, children’s toys, bird baths, plant saucers, trash cans, and even something as small as a bottle cap.
- **Wear insect repellent.** When you’re outdoors, use products that contains DEET, which is the gold standard in insect repellents.
- **When traveling to countries with Chikungunya.** Use insect repellent, wear long sleeves and pants, and stay in places with air conditioning or that use window and door screens.

Orange County Health Services Department’s Mosquito Control Division actively sprays to control the mosquito population and is a resource available to all citizens. Orange County residents who would like their property checked for these mosquitoes may call Mosquito Control Division at 407-254-9120, or dial 311. Visit ocfl.net to learn about other services Orange County provides. For more information about Chikungunya, visit our newsroom at ocfl.net.