

# CHIKUNGUNYA

Chikungunya is a viral disease transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes.



First identified during an outbreak in Tanzania in 1952, chikungunya is a virus that is transmitted between humans by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

The word chikungunya comes from the African Kimakonde language; it means 'to become contorted', as the disease causes debilitating joint pain that induces a stooped appearance.

In 2015, there was a large outbreak across the Americas, with more than 1,300,000 suspected cases of chikungunya recorded in the Caribbean islands, Latin America and the United States. More than 190 deaths were attributed to this disease during this period.

## Causes

Chikungunya is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. These mosquitoes bite during the day, usually just after sunrise and around sunset.

## Symptoms

-  **HEADACHE**
-  **RASH**
-  **FATIGUE**
-  **SUDDEN FEVER**
-  **MUSCLE AND JOINT ACHEs**

Chikungunya causes severe fever and debilitating joint pain, and shares some clinical signs with Zika and dengue. This can lead to misdiagnosis in areas where these diseases are prevalent. Symptoms usually improve within a week; however, occasionally the joint pain may last for months or even years.

## More about chikungunya

Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne disease caused by the chikungunya virus. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions about this disease and its symptoms, treatments and prevention techniques.

### Where does chikungunya occur?

Chikungunya is most prevalent in Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Pacific. It also occurs in warmer parts of Europe.

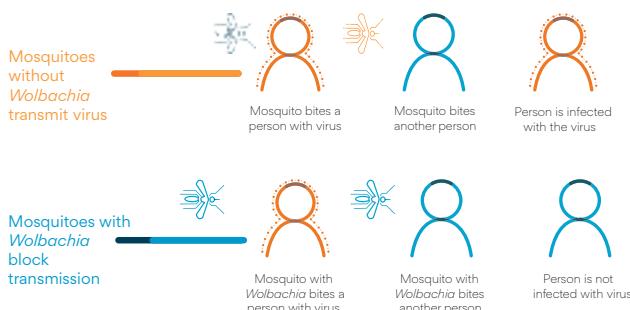
Approximately 40 countries are affected.

### How many people have been affected by chikungunya?

Chikungunya causes an estimated 3,000,000 infections each year. Outbreaks are often separated by periods of more than 10 years, so it is difficult to assess the global burden of this disease, but the virus is widespread.

### How does chikungunya spread?

Chikungunya spreads wherever *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are present. It is a human virus transmitted primarily by this mosquito, which is commonly found around homes and urban areas.



### How is chikungunya treated?

There is no specific antiviral drug treatment for chikungunya. Symptoms can last from months to years. Treatment primarily focuses on relieving symptoms with common medications.

### How can we help prevent chikungunya?

Prevention relies heavily on reducing the number of natural and artificial stagnant water habitats that support mosquito breeding. Other methods of control involve using insecticides and personal repellents, and wearing protective clothing.

However, the World Mosquito Program's *Wolbachia* method is showing promising results internationally, helping to block the transmission of chikungunya, as well as other viruses transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, such as Zika, dengue and yellow fever.

### How can I find out more about chikungunya?

Contact your local health authority for guidance. Or, for general information, read this chikungunya fact sheet from the World Health Organization.

[READ THE CHIKUNGUNYA FACT SHEET FROM THE WHO](#)

## About us

The World Mosquito Program is an international, not-for-profit initiative that works to protect the global community from mosquito-borne diseases including dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

Our approach has widespread support from communities, governments, research institutes and philanthropic partners around the world. Through collaboration and innovation, we can make a difference to millions of lives.

Currently the World Mosquito Program works in 11 countries in Asia, the Pacific and the Americas. Our aim is to protect 75-100 million people over the next five years.

In addition to the Oceania Office in Melbourne, Australia, the World Mosquito Program has a regional Asian Hub in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and plans for an Americas Hub in Panama City, Panama.

These hubs support projects in their respective regions and contribute to core global operations.

[Contact us](#)

