

FACT SHEET

YELLOW FEVER

Yellow fever, an acute viral haemorrhagic disease, is transmitted by infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes.



Yellow fever is a viral disease of typically short duration.

In most cases, symptoms include fever, chills, loss of appetite, nausea, muscle pains (particularly in the back) and headaches. Symptoms tend to improve within five days; however, this disease claims the lives of approximately 30,000 people around the world every year. The 'yellow' in the name refers to the jaundice that affects some patients.

The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito species is found in most tropical and subtropical cities in the world, and they were the main carrier of yellow fever in the past. Large outbreaks of urban yellow fever tend to occur when infected people introduce the virus into heavily populated areas with a high density of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, and where most people have little or no immunity, due to lack of vaccination or prior exposure to yellow fever.

Causes

Yellow fever 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



Symptoms typically improve within five days.

More about yellow fever

Here are answers to some frequently asked questions about this yellow fever and its symptoms, treatments and prevention techniques.

Where does yellow fever occur?

Yellow fever is endemic across Africa and Latin America.

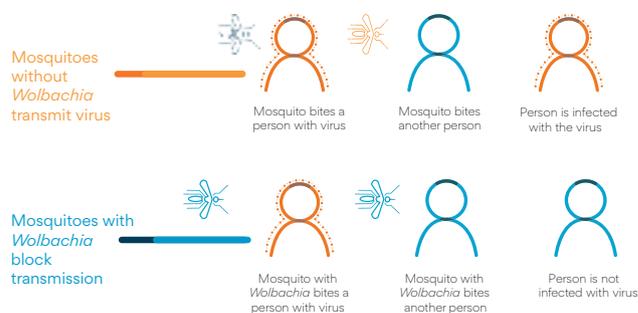
Of the 47 countries affected, 13 in the Americas have the highest risk of outbreaks, including Brazil, Mexico and Colombia. The World Mosquito Program has begun work in these countries in an effort to end the spread of the disease. While the urban transmission of yellow fever by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes has not been reported in Brazil since 1942, the risk of re-urbanisation of the disease remains.

How many people have been affected by yellow fever?

According to the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization, yellow fever causes 200,000 infections and 30,000 deaths annually.

How does yellow fever spread?

Yellow fever spreads wherever *Aedes aegypti* and *Haemogogus* mosquitoes are present. There are three ways yellow fever can be transmitted. Our *Wolbachia* method only provides protection against yellow fever transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which is commonly found in urban settings, such as homes and workplaces.



How is yellow fever treated?

There is no treatment for yellow fever, other than rest and management of the fever with common medicines.

How can we help prevent yellow fever?

Safe and affordable, the yellow fever vaccine is the most important means to combat the virus – a single dose provides lifelong immunity.

The World Mosquito Program's *Wolbachia* method could potentially help to reduce yellow fever transmission, as well as other viruses transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, such as dengue, Zika and chikungunya.

How can I find out more about yellow fever?

Contact your local health ministry authority for guidance or, for general information, read this yellow fever factsheet from the World Health Organization.

[READ THE YELLOW FEVER 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

