

DENGUE

In recent decades, the global incidence of dengue has grown dramatically. Around 50 per cent of the world's population is now at risk.



According to the World Health Organization, dengue fever is the most critical and the most rapidly spreading mosquito-borne disease in the world. There has been a 30-fold increase in global incidence over the past 50 years with severe dengue being a leading cause of serious illness and death in some Asian and Latin American countries.

Dengue fever can develop into dengue haemorrhagic fever, or severe dengue, which is a more acute form of the disease that includes symptoms such as bleeding under the skin and constant vomiting.

Dengue viruses can be grouped into four serotypes, all of which can cause disease. Prior infection with one dengue serotype is believed to make people more likely to develop severe dengue in later infections.

Causes

Dengue 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

-  **HEADACHE**
-  **RASH**
-  **VOMITING**
-  **HIGH FEVER**
-  **MUSCLE AND JOINT ACHES**

Symptoms typically last for two to seven days.

More about dengue

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

Where does dengue occur?

Dengue can exist anywhere that *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes live. The most significant dengue epidemics in recent years have occurred in Southeast Asia, the Americas and the Western Pacific.

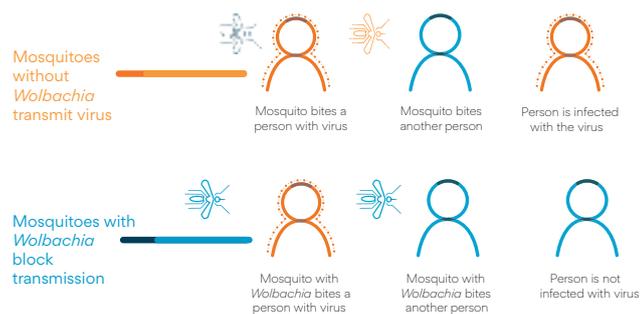
At least 120 countries are affected.

How many people have been affected by dengue?

Around 50 per cent of the world's population is at risk of dengue infection. Each year, an estimated 390 million dengue infections occur around the world. Of these, around 500,000 cases develop into severe dengue, or dengue haemorrhagic fever, a more severe form of the disease, which results in up to 36,000 deaths worldwide each year.

How does dengue spread?

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



How is dengue treated?

There is no specific medical treatment for dengue, which has flu-like symptoms. Medical care and the maintenance of the patient's body fluid volume is critical for treating severe dengue fever, which can be lethal.

How can we help prevent dengue?

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 dengue, as well as other viruses transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, such as Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

Our research shows that in areas where high levels of *Wolbachia*-carrying mosquitoes are present, dengue incidence is significantly reduced.

How can I find out more about dengue?

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

[READ THE DENGUE 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 help ease the burden for thousands of communities at risk from these diseases.

Currently the World Mosquito Program works in 11 countries in Asia, the Pacific and the Americas. Our aim is to protect 50 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

