

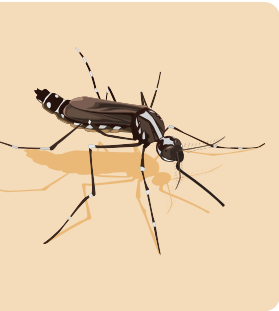
# Yellow Fever

## FACT SHEET



## Immunization Service

Yellow Fever is a disease that is caused by a virus that is spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. This disease is found in tropical and subtropical areas of the world, primarily South America and Africa. Therefore, only US residents that travel to these foreign countries are at risk for the disease.



### How is Yellow Fever Spread?

The virus can only be spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes get the virus by feeding on infected humans or animals. Yellow Fever is not spread directly from person-to-person. Mosquitoes in Oklahoma do not carry the Yellow Fever virus.

### How is Yellow Fever Diagnosed?

A blood test can be used by a doctor to look for antibodies in a patient's blood that may show infection with the illness.

### Where Can Outbreaks of Yellow Fever Occur?

Dengue occurs mostly in the tropical areas of the world primarily in Africa and South America. Outbreaks can occur anywhere there are mosquitoes that are infected with Yellow Fever viruses.



### Symptoms of Yellow Fever

Most people that are infected with the Yellow Fever virus have no symptoms or only very mild illness. Their symptoms will start very quickly and include:

- High Fever
- Chills
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Rashes
- Severe Headache
- Pain Behind the Eyes
- Muscle and Joint Pain

Only a proportion (approximately 15%) of infected persons will develop more severe symptoms:

- High Fever
- Jaundice (a condition of yellow skin and eyes)
- Shock/Organ Failure
- Bleeding
  - Black vomit
  - Nose Bleed
  - Bleeding gums
  - Purple Pin-Point Spots (bruising)

Yellow Fever can be a fatal in approximately 20-50% of people that develop severe symptoms.

## Preventing Yellow Fever

**The best way to prevent illness is to get the Yellow Fever vaccine** if you or someone you know plans on traveling to either South America or Africa. The vaccination is safe and is available at international travel clinics, as well as some health departments for a fee. Many countries in South America and Africa require proof of vaccination before you enter the country. Travelers should take steps to prevent mosquito bites during their stay, including:

- When indoors, stay in air-conditioned or screened areas. Use bed nets if sleeping areas are not screened or air-conditioned.
- Wear insect repellent containing an active ingredient such as 10% - 30% DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus (PMD) or IR3535 to exposed skin and clothing when outdoors.
- Medical experts recommend applying repellent with low concentrations (10%) of DEET to infants over two-months old.

### For additional information:

Immunization Service  
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