

Prevent Mosquito Breeding

Mosquitoes live and breed in standing water in and around the home.

Do your part by preventing mosquito breeding:

- Cover all drums, tanks, barrels and buckets that are used to store water
- Get rid of all old tyres, tins, bottles, plastic containers, coconut shells and anything in which rain water settles
- Cover trash containers to keep out rain water
- Punch holes in the bottom of tins before placing them in the garbage
- Keep flower pot saucers dry and avoid over-watering potted plants

Prevent Mosquito Breeding

- Empty and scrub flower vases twice weekly
- Empty and wash pets' water containers twice weekly
- Keep house plants in damp soil instead of water.

See your doctor immediately if you think you or a family member might have Chikungunya



Ministry of Health

For more information contact

Ministry of Health

1-888-ONE-LOVE

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CHIKUNGUNYA (CHIK)

Fact Sheet

CHIKUNGUNYA (CHIK)

The disease

Chikungunya is a viral disease that causes fever and severe joint pains.

It is spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito.

The mosquito

Aedes aegypti mosquitoes spread or pass on the chikungunya virus.



This type of mosquito also spreads the dengue virus

Symptoms

The most common symptoms are fever and severe joint pains, often in the hands, wrist and ankles. Prolonged effects include arthritis and disabling joint pains. In some cases, symptoms can last for months and even years.

Other symptoms include headache, backache, muscle pain, nausea, fatigue and rash.

Treatment

There are no medicines to specifically treat chikungunya and there is no vaccine.

Pain killers can be taken to help reduce the fever and pain, however:

- **Use Paracetamol pain killers ONLY**
- DO NOT TAKE other pain killers such as Aspirin, Ibuprofen and other anti-inflammatory drugs, as they may increase your risk of bleeding.

Persons at high risk for Chikungunya

- Newborns and the elderly
- Women late in their pregnancy as there is increased risk of disease in the unborn child
- Persons with underlying medical conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, or heart disease

Prevent Mosquito Bites

Mosquitoes which spread Chikungunya bite during the daytime.

Protect yourself from mosquito bites :

- Wear light coloured clothing and cover your body as much as possible
- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET on exposed skin
- Use mosquito coils and electric vaporization mats both day and night
- Use mosquito nets
- Use door and window screens (mesh)

