

Yellow Fever Information Sheet

What is Yellow Fever?

Yellow Fever is an illness caused by a virus called a *flavivirus*. The virus can be found in humans, some species of monkey, marsupials and some tropical forest mosquitoes.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms, which begin within 3 to 6 days after exposure to the virus, can range from being very mild to the characteristic fever, chills, headache, backache, muscle pain, nausea and vomiting. As the disease progresses, the pulse can slow and weaken, and anuria (lack of urine production) can develop. Vomiting of blood is also symptomatic. In areas where the disease is common (Africa and tropical Americas), the case fatality rate can be less than 5%. For visitors to these regions, or during epidemics, the fatality rate can be as high as 50%.

How is it spread?

The Yellow Fever virus is carried by the bite of an infected mosquito. Transmission occurs in early morning and late afternoon hours, i.e. when mosquito activity is highest. Virus-infected mosquitoes are chiefly found in Africa and tropical Americas.

How is Yellow Fever prevented?

- Mosquito control may be necessary in endemic areas.
- To protect yourself from mosquito bites:
 - remain in well-screened or air-conditioned areas
 - sleep under mosquito netting
 - wear clothing that reduces the amount of exposed skin (long pants, long-sleeved shirts)
 - use an insect repellent containing 30 – 35% N, N diethylmetatoluamide (DEET), sparingly, on exposed skin.

Note: insect repellents containing more than 30% DEET should not be used on children

September 26, 2002

For further information, please call:
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1-800-361-5653
www.region.york.on.ca