



Hawaii State Department of Health

Disease Investigation Branch

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Yellow Fever

(Jungle Fever)

What is yellow fever?

Yellow fever is a viral disease transmitted to man by a specific type of mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*. This mosquito is commonly found in the tropical forests of South America and Africa. Although the *Aedes* mosquito is present in Hawaii, no yellow fever virus has been reported in the Hawaiian Islands. Both the *Aedes* mosquito and the yellow fever virus must be present together to spread the disease.

How do you get it?

You get yellow fever by being bitten by infected *Aedes* mosquitoes that inject the yellow fever virus into the bite.

What are the symptoms of yellow fever?

The severities of yellow fever symptoms varies widely and often include fever, chills, headaches, muscle aches, vomiting, and backache. In severe progressive disease, the pulse slows and weakens, the gums bleed, and the urine may contain blood. Yellowing of the skin (jaundice), nose bleeds, and bloody vomitus may also occur.

When do the symptoms start?

The symptoms begin 3 to 6 days after being bitten by infected *Aedes* mosquitoes.

What is the treatment for yellow fever?

The treatment for yellow fever consists mainly of bed rest, fluid /blood replacement (as needed), and supportive care.

If you get yellow fever once, can you get it again?

No. People who have had yellow fever once are protected for life.

Is there a vaccine for yellow fever?

Yes. Many countries require yellow fever vaccinations for international travelers who arrive from countries currently infected with yellow fever. Your doctor or the Department of Health can tell you which countries require proof of vaccination for entry.

How can I keep from getting it?

In areas infested with mosquitoes, take measures to avoid mosquito bites by dressing appropriately, by using mosquito nets, placing screens on windows and doors, and applying insect repellents.

Get vaccinated for yellow fever when you expect to travel to a country where yellow fever is present. Call your doctor for more information.

For more information, see the CDC's website at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_yellow_fever.htm