



Yellow Fever: What You Need to Know

[Yellow fever](#) (YF) is transmitted by the bite of infected female mosquitoes. The disease occurs in tropical and subtropical areas of Africa and South America. Seasonal transmission varies in the different continents. In Africa, it is highest at the end of the rainy season through the beginning of the dry season, which usually takes place between July and October each year. In South America, the risk is highest during the region's rainy season which is usually between January and May. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, YF is a very rare cause of illness in U.S. travelers to these areas. The risk of contracting YF within the U.S. is very low.

How do you become infected?

Yellow fever is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by the bite of infected *Aedes* and *Haemagogus* mosquitoes. People infected with the YF virus are infectious to mosquitoes shortly after the onset of fever and up to 5 days after onset. YF is not contagious and not passed directly from human to human via casual contact.



Aedes



Haemagogus

Who is at risk?

The risk of transmission is highest for people who live, work or engage in recreational activities in the areas of Africa and South America where YF is commonly found. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has compiled [maps of areas](#) currently at risk for YF.

What are the symptoms of yellow fever virus and how is it treated?

Contact your health care provider if you recognize [symptoms of the YF infection](#) so they can evaluate you and provide recommendations for supportive care. There is no specific medicine to treat or cure YF.

How do you prevent being infected?

A safe and effective YF [vaccine](#) is available in many places. A single dose, recommended for age 9 months and older, provides lifelong immunity to people traveling to and living in areas at risk for YF. To defend against YF, reduce your exposure to mosquitoes when traveling or spending time outdoors. While most mosquitoes are active from dusk to dawn, some species that can spread YF are active during the day and in urban areas.

Additional Resources

The [Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center](#) (NMPCHC) and [Navy Entomology Center of Excellence](#) (NECE) have more information about [protection](#) from mosquito bites and [mosquito control](#).