



# Under the Scope

Florida Department of Health in Indian River County



Summer  
2014

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## Chikungunya - Recognizing & Preventing Local Spread of a New Threat

Due to frequent international travel among our residents, immigration and our proximity to endemic areas, Florida sees imported cases of dengue each year. Introduction into the native mosquito population and local spread has occurred in several instances, including last summer in Martin County. So far, mosquito control and public health workers have managed to stop the virus from becoming established, but new opportunities for introduction continue.

Now we have a new threat - Chikungunya (*CHI-kən-GUUN-ye*) fever, caused by the Chikungunya virus (CHIKV). Chikungunya fever was first described in Southeastern Africa, in 1952. Historically, outbreaks have been occurred in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Indian and Pacific Oceans. In late 2013, the first locally acquired cases in the Americas were reported in the Caribbean. There are now 19 countries and territories in the Caribbean and South America reporting local transmission of CHIKV. People traveling to these regions are at risk of becoming infected and can introduce the virus into our local mosquito population.

Most people who are infected with CHIKV become ill. Common symptoms include abrupt onset of high fever and severe polyarthralgia within 2 to 12 days of exposure. Joint pains are often severe and debilitating. Other symptoms may include headache, myalgia, arthritis and rash. In a naïve population, CHIKV spreads rapidly, and can cause high morbidity. Although acute illness is self-limiting, joint pain can persist for months to years.

CHIKV and dengue share the same mosquito vectors (*Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*), occur in many of the same regions, and clinical presentation can be similar. Co-infection with CHIKV and dengue can also occur. Timely laboratory testing of suspected cases is essential to successful management of cases and preventing local outbreaks.

**Physicians should contact Florida Department of Health in Indian River County if chikungunya or dengue infection is suspected in patients with high fever and polyarthralgia with or without travel to the Caribbean in the two weeks prior to symptom onset.**

**If either chikungunya or dengue is suspected, the patient should avoid contact with local mosquitoes while ill.**

Chikungunya and dengue are diseases that we do not want in Florida. To prevent these viruses from becoming established in our state, healthcare professionals must be vigilant and report suspected cases to public health agencies. Preventive measures that everyone can take include:

- **Drain** standing water in artificial and natural containers around the home to stop mosquitoes from multiplying;
- **Cover** your skin with clothing and use mosquito repellent during daylight hours and twilight (mosquito vectors of CHIKV and dengue are daytime biters!); and
- **Cover** doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out.

**Contact Florida Department of Health in Indian River County (772-794-7440) or Indian River Mosquito Control District (<http://irmosquito.com/irmcd-web/index.php>) (772-562-2393) for more information.**

Additional resources:

FDOH: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/chikungunya.html>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/>

PAHO: [http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9053&Itemid=39843](http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9053&Itemid=39843)

**Selected Reportable Diseases/Conditions, Jan 1, 2014 - May 31, 2014  
with 3-year Comparison, Indian River County**

Cases (rate per 100,000 population)	Florida		Indian River County	
	YTD 2014	YTD 2014	YTD 2013	YTD 2012
<b>Enteric Diseases</b>				
Campylobacteriosis	1,184 (6.1)	22 (15.3)	12 (8.5)	16 (11.4)
Cryptosporidiosis	175 (0.9)	6 (4.2)	5 (3.5)	4 (2.9)
Giardiasis	422 (2.2)	3 (2.1)	9 (6.4)	3 (2.1)
Salmonellosis	1,633 (8.4)	14 (9.7)	11 (7.8)	20 (14.3)
Shigellosis	1,097 (5.6)	3 (2.1)	1 (0.7)	44 (31.5)
<i>Vibrio alginolyticus</i>	17 (0.1)	0	0	1 (0.7)
<b>Vector Borne, Zoonoses</b>				
Dengue Fever	34 (0.2)	0	1 (0.7)	0
Lyme Disease	37 (0.2)	3 (2.1)	1 (0.7)	0
Rabies, Possible Human Exposure	1,052 (5.4)	6 (4.2)	6 (4.2)	4 (2.9)
<b>CNS &amp; Invasive Diseases</b>				
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> (invasive disease)	151 (0.8)	1 (0.7)	0	0
Meningitis (Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic)	63 (0.3)	1 (0.7)	0	0
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , invasive disease, drug resistant	281 (1.4)	4 (2.8)	1 (0.7)	0
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> , invasive disease, susceptible	283 (1.5)	2 (1.4)	3 (2.1)	1 (0.7)
<b>Vaccine Preventable</b>				
Pertussis	319 (1.6)	0	3 (2.1)	0
Varicella	278 (1.4)	3 (2.1)	2 (1.4)	6 (4.3)
<b>Viral Hepatitis</b>				
Hepatitis B (+HBsAg in pregnant women)	217 (1.1)	2 (1.4)	1 (0.7)	1 (0.7)
Hepatitis B, Acute	168 (0.9)	0	2 (1.4)	1 (0.7)
Hepatitis B, Chronic	1,994 (10.3)	11(7.7)	7 (5.0)	7 (5.0)
Hepatitis C, Acute	89 (0.5)	0	0	1 (0.7)
Hepatitis C, Chronic	10,912 (56.1)	88 (61.3)	70 (49.5)	53 (37.9)
Hepatitis D	0	0	1 (0.7)	0
<b>HIV / AIDS*</b>				
HIV	1,498 (7.7)	4 (2.8)	3 (2.1)	2 (1.4)
AIDS	697 (3.6)	1 (0.7)	2 (1.4)	2 (1.4)
<b>STDs*</b>				
Chlamydia	20,036 (102.5)	100 (69.7)	121 (85.7)	121 (86.5)
Gonorrhea	5,046 (25.8)	14 (9.8)	20 (14.2)	31 (22.2)
Infectious Syphilis	420 (2.4)	1 (0.7)	0	0
<b>Others</b>				
Carbon Monoxide poisoning	74 (0.4)	0	0	1 (0.7)
Lead poisoning	354 (1.8)	1 (0.7)	1 (0.7)	1 (0.7)
Legionellosis	100 (0.5)	2 (1.4)	0	1 (0.7)
Pesticide-related illness or injury	11 (0.06)	0	0	2 (1.4)
Tuberculosis*	108 ( )	2 (1.4)	2 (1.4)	1 (0.7)

\*2014 data are provisional and subject to change; YTD as of 03/31/2014

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**OUR VISION:**

Healthiest State in the Nation

**OUR MISSION:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida  
through integrated state, county & community efforts

<http://www.myirchd.com/>

