

11 Yellow fever



Transmission

- Mosquito bite
- Mosquitoes that spread yellow fever bite during the day

Symptoms

- Most people who are infected with yellow fever do not get sick or have only a mild illness.
- Starts with sudden fever, headache and backache, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting and tiredness.
- The sick person may get better for a short time but can get worse and develop jaundice (yellow skin or eyes).
- Sick persons may also bleed from the gums, nose or eyes, vomit blood, or have blood in their stools.

Prevention

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine vaccination • Prevention of mosquito bites by putting insect screens on windows and doors and personal protection (application of repellents, long sleeved clothes, etc.) • Community clean-up campaigns to remove rubbish and cover water containers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination of mosquito breeding sites by removing standing water, fogging, and applying larvicides • Social mobilization and behaviour change communication |
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Vulnerable people

- Every person in the community who is not vaccinated can get yellow fever
- Young children and older people are more likely to become very sick or have complications

If an epidemic occurs

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support mass vaccination campaigns • Increase community-based surveillance • Rapidly detect and refer suspected cases to health facilities • Increase social mobilization and behaviour change communication • Promote community clean-up campaigns to remove rubbish and cover water containers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage prevention of mosquito bites by placing insect screens on windows and doors and wearing personal protection (apply repellents, wear long sleeved clothes, etc.) • Eliminate mosquito breeding sites by removing standing water, fogging, and applying larvicides • Encourage young children and people who sleep during the day to sleep under a mosquito net (if windows and doors are not screened) |
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Volunteer actions

See the following action tools for more information on how to take action against yellow fever:

1 2 3 4 5 12 19 24 25 36 37 38 43

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Community-based assessment

Make a map of the community and mark the information you gather on the map. Record other details.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When did people start to fall sick with yellow fever? • How many people have fallen sick with yellow fever? Where? • How many people have died? Where? • How many people live in the affected community or area? How many children under five years of age live in the area? • Who and where are the vulnerable people? • Are children under five most affected? Or are other age groups, occupations, etc., more affected? • Are children and adults in the affected community vaccinated against yellow fever? • Is a vaccination campaign planned? • Do strong cultural beliefs or perceptions about vaccination prevent children from being vaccinated? • Do people usually cover their water containers (inside and outside)? • How many houses have insect screens on the windows and doors? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the community's habits, practices and beliefs regarding use of repellents, sprays, etc.? • What are the usual ways of disposing of rubbish and solid waste in the community? • Have the authorities established a vector control programme? • Where are the local health facilities and services? (Include traditional and community carers.) • What are the community's habits, practices and beliefs about caring for and feeding sick people? When babies and infants are sick, do women continue to breastfeed them? • Is a social mobilization or health promotion programme in place? • Which sources of information do people use most? • Are rumours or is misinformation about the disease spreading in the community? |
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