



Disease Tool 12

Chikungunya

Transmission

- Mosquito bite
- Mosquitoes that spread chikungunya usually bite during the day, especially in early morning and late afternoon or evening
- In rare cases, transmission is from mother to new-born baby around the time of birth

Symptoms

- Sudden fever, often with joint pain
- Other symptoms include headache, nausea, tiredness and rash
- Joint pain is often severe
- It lasts for several days, but may last much longer
- Most people with chikungunya get better and return to normal, but sometimes joint pain continues for months or even years
- In older people, chikungunya can contribute to the cause of death

Prevention

- Prevention of mosquito bites by placing insect screens on windows and doors and personal protection (application of repellents, wearing long sleeved clothes, etc.).
- Community clean up campaigns to remove rubbish and cover water containers.
- Elimination of mosquito breeding sites by removing standing water, fogging, and applying larvicides.
- Social mobilization and behaviour change communication.

If an epidemic occurs

- Increase community-based surveillance.
- Rapidly detect and refer serious cases to health facilities.
- Increase social mobilization and behaviour change communication.
- Promote community clean up campaigns to remove rubbish and cover water containers.
- 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).

Vulnerable people

- Older people
- People with medical conditions (high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease)
- New-born babies infected around the time of birth

Volunteer actions

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



Community-based assessment

Make a map of the community and mark the information you gather on the map. Record other details. When did people start to fall sick with chikungunya?

- How many people have fallen sick with chikungunya? Where?
- How many people have died? Where?
- How many people live in the affected community or area? How many children under 5 years of age live in the area?
- Who and where are the vulnerable people?
- Are children under 5 most affected? Or are other age groups, occupations, etc., more affected?
- Do people usually cover their water containers (inside and outside)?
- How many houses have insect screens on the windows and doors?
- What are the community's habits, practices and beliefs regarding use of repellents, sprays, etc.?
- How does the community usually dispose of rubbish and solid waste?
- 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? Do women continue to breastfeed babies and infants when they are sick?
- 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?