

What is yellow fever?

Yellow fever is caused by a virus in the Flaviviridae family. It is spread to humans by the bite of a mosquito that carries the virus.

Who is at risk for yellow fever?

People traveling to certain areas in Africa, and Central and South America may be at risk for yellow fever. A map of areas where there is a risk for yellow fever is available at www.cdc.gov/yellowfever/maps/index.html.

Many factors affect risk for yellow fever, including immunization status, season, length of stay and area visited.

What are the symptoms of yellow fever?

Symptoms of yellow fever can range from mild to severe illness. The typical symptoms are a sudden onset of fever, chills, headache, backache, muscle pain, nausea and vomiting. Yellow fever can become severe, result in significant bleeding, and cause death.

How soon do symptoms appear?

Symptoms appear from three to six days after being bitten by an infected mosquito.

How is yellow fever spread?

It is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito.

When and for how long is a person able to spread the disease?

People are not able to spread yellow fever to others. The disease is only spread by the bite of an infected mosquito.

How is a person diagnosed?

Blood tests can be done to determine if you have been infected with yellow fever.

What is the treatment?

There is no specific treatment for yellow fever. People with yellow fever should receive supportive care, such as fluids and rest.

Does past infection make a person immune?

Yes. People who have had yellow fever will not get it again.

Should children or others be excluded from child care, school, work or other activities if they have yellow fever?

No. If the person is unable to participate in routine activities, then the person should be excluded.

What can be done to prevent yellow fever disease?

A vaccine to prevent yellow fever is available at certain clinics in North Dakota. Information about yellow fever vaccination requirements and clinics is available at www.cdc.gov/travel. An International Certificate of Vaccination for Yellow Fever is required for travel into and out of certain countries for everyone older than nine months of age. A booster dose is no longer required by International Health Regulations every 10 years for most travelers. Please see your physician to determine if you need to a 10 year booster vaccination.

Mosquito bites also should be avoided. Some ways to protect yourself include:

- Using nets with insecticide on them while sleeping
- Remaining in areas that are screened to prevent mosquitoes from entering
- Wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts
- Using a mosquito repellent that contains DEET

Additional Information:

Additional information is available at www.ndhealth.gov/disease or by calling the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2180.

This disease is a reportable condition. As mandated by North Dakota law, any incidence of this disease shall be reported to the North Dakota Department of Health.

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC Health Information for International Travel 2016. New York: Oxford University Press; 2015.

Control of Communicable Disease Manual, 20th Edition-2015, Heymann, David, MD ed., 2008; [page 683-689]