



200 E. Berry Street ♦ Suite 360 ♦ Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Phone: (260) 449-7561 ♦ Fax: (260) 449-3010 ♦ [www.allencountyhealth.com](http://www.allencountyhealth.com)

## Frequently Asked Questions about Chikungunya Virus\*

**Q: What is Chikungunya?**

A: Chikungunya (Chik V) is a virus passed on to humans from mosquitoes. People infected with Chik V pass it on to a certain type of mosquito, which then can pass it on to other humans.

**Q: Where did Chik V come from?**

A: The virus has been found in Africa, Southeast Asia, and islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. It has spread to Southern Europe and in late 2013 appeared in the Caribbean islands.

**Q: What kind of mosquito carries and spreads Chik V?**

A: *Aedes albopictus*, or the Asian Tiger Mosquito as it is commonly known, can carry Chik V and several other viral diseases. It is widespread in parts of the United States but has not yet been found to be prevalent in northern Indiana.

**Q: What are the symptoms of Chik V?**

A: Symptoms usually begin 3-7 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito and consist of fever, severe joint pains (often in the hands and feet), headache, muscle pain, joint swelling, and/or rash.

Most patients feel better within a week. Some people may develop longer-term joint pain. People at increased risk for severe disease include newborns exposed during delivery, older adults ( $\geq 65$  years), and people with medical conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes or heart disease. Deaths are rare (1 in a 1,000 people).

**Q: How is Chik V treated?**

A: There are no antiviral medicines. There are medicines to help reduce fever and pain. There is no vaccine or medicine to prevent Chik V.

**Q: How can I prevent *Aedes albopictus* from breeding on my property or biting me?**

A: Eliminate any standing water on the property, change pet watering dishes, overflow dishes for potted plants, and bird bath water frequently. Do not allow water to accumulate in tires, flower pots, buckets, rain barrels, gutters etc. Use personal protection to avoid mosquito bites. Long sleeves and insect repellent such as DEET will reduce exposure to bites. *Aedes albopictus* is a day biter with feeding peaks in early morning and late afternoon, so by limiting outdoor activities during these times when mosquitoes are generally most active, bites can be avoided.

\*Excerpted from CDC "Chikungunya – Information for the general public"