

Chikungunya Virus

CHIKV

CHIKV is a risk group 3 virus. It is considered a **reproductive pathogen** as it can be transmitted via from mother to baby around the time of birth. Newborn babies infected with CHIKV are at higher risk for a severe case of the disease.

How can I be exposed to CHIKV?

- Exposure occurs via mosquito vectors (primarily *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*)
- Laboratory workers may be exposed by inhalation of infectious material and bites from infected mosquitoes.

How can I protect myself from exposure?

- Avoid direct skin contact by wearing protective clothing and gloves.
- Avoid mucous membrane exposure by using eye/face protection for procedures that may produce splashes.
- Avoid respiratory exposure by using a biosafety cabinet or other primary containment device and wearing a respirator for procedures that may produce aerosols.
- The use of needles, syringes, and other sharp objects should be strictly limited, and additional precautions should be taken when working with animals.

What should I do if I think I've been exposed to CHIKV?

Wash the affected area immediately for 15 minutes with soap and water and seek medical attention.

What symptoms should I look for after a potential exposure?

Initial infection is followed by acute fever and pain in several joints. Joint pain is often bilateral, symmetric, and debilitating. Skin, mucous membrane, and gastrointestinal symptoms are also possible.

How long does it take for symptoms to develop?

Symptoms develop between 4 to 7 days after exposure.

Is there a treatment or vaccine?

Treatment usually involves supportive care. The 2025 vaccine, Vimkungya is approved for people 12 years and older. It is recommended for travelers to high-risk areas and laboratory workers.

Can I transmit it to other people?

No, individuals are infected by mosquitoes, needlestick, inhalation of aerosols, and transmission from mother to newborn.

Can I transmit it to my pets?

No, CHIKV can only infect other animals and humans through the mosquito vector.

Can it survive on surfaces?

No, CHIKV is inactivated outside of a host or optimal laboratory conditions by sunlight, heat, and drying.

See *Pathogen Safety Data Sheet* for More Information

