



Homeland Security Bureau Southeast Florida Fusion Center



Situational Awareness

Date: 7/03/14

Increasing Spread of Chikungunya Virus

With the increased mosquito activity in summer, the chikungunya virus continues to spread. The chikungunya virus, a viral infection transmitted to humans through infected mosquitoes, is increasing in numbers in the U.S. Outbreaks have occurred in Africa, Asia, Europe, and islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. In late 2013, the virus made its way to the Caribbean, and as of late, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has received reports of 74 imported cases in the U.S. Florida has reported the most cases at 34.

The number of suspected and confirmed cases in Caribbean countries has sharply increased. Thousands of new cases have been reported from the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The disease is spreading to South America and Central America. Currently, the Florida Department of Health has received reports of imported cases of chikungunya fever to Florida from travelers who recently traveled to the Caribbean. One was in Miami-Dade County, one from Broward County, and the other in Hillsborough County.

Since chikungunya cases are likely to increase, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that may lead to local transmission of the virus in the U.S. Like the dengue virus, the chikungunya virus does not spread from person to person, but it can spread when a mosquito bites an infected person and then bites someone else.

This information is made available for situational awareness. If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact the Southeast Florida Fusion Center at (305) 470-3880 or seffc@mdpd.com. Please report any suspicious activity or information to the SEFFC at 305-470-3880 or SEFFC@mdpd.com. The 24-hour Citizen Tip Line is 1-866-58-ALERT (25378).

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Sources:

- <http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/19/health/chikungunya-virus-cuba-united-states/>
- <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2014/06/haiti-dominican-republic-cases-push-chikungunya-total-past-260000>
- http://www.dadehealth.org/public/PUBLICnewsarticle.asp?newsID=2212&typeID=&news_type=Press+Releases
- <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/chikungunya>

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Early detection of the symptoms and preventing mosquitoes from biting will help prevent the disease from spreading in the U.S.

SYMPTOMS (last a few days to a few weeks)

- Fever
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle or Joint pain/swelling
- Rash
- Nausea
- Vomiting

PREVENTION

Prevent mosquito bites:

- Use insect repellent
- Wear long sleeves/pants/hats
- Wear shoes/socks
- Stay/sleep in screened or air conditioned rooms
- Use bed net if sleeping area is exposed to outdoors
- Empty standing water from outdoor containers.

TREATMENT

No vaccine
No medicine