

March 23, 2017 (revised)

Virus Symptoms

- Headache
- Fever
- Joint & muscle pain
- Joint swelling
- Rash

Avoiding Bites

- Weekly remove or empty containers that have standing water.
- Avoid being outside when mosquito activity is heavy.
- These are daytime feeders. Most other Florida disease transmitting mosquitoes are dusk and evening feeders.
- Cover as much skin as possible with clothing when outside during heavy mosquito activity times.
- Use effective mosquito repellents on exposed skin.



Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners

University of Florida/Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension
Service Department, 559 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Master Gardener Hotline
Desk: 561.233.1750

Chikungunya Virus in Palm Beach County

Chikungunya virus is in Florida and Palm Beach County. In our state, the virus is transmitted human to human by two species of mosquitoes: the yellow fever mosquito, *Aedes aegypti* and the Asian tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*. The yellow fever mosquito is one of the most common mosquito species in southern Florida. Currently, no vaccine is available for the chikungunya virus. The best defense is to protect against mosquito bites and reduce mosquito populations.

Chikungunya generally is not



Rash caused by chikungunya virus

Avoiding Mosquitoes

Avoid being outside as much as possible during periods of heavy mosquito activity. Cover skin with long-sleeved shirts and long pants. Treat exposed skin with an effective mosquito repellent. These include products containing the insecticide DEET. Check the active ingredients portion of the label and look for either **N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide** or **N,N-dimethylbenzamide** to insure the product contains DEET.

Some plant-derived products like citronella can also be effective. However, avoid the ineffective products listed at the end of this page.

fatal, but requires a physician's testing for proper diagnosis. Symptoms include fever, joint and muscle pain, headache, joint swelling and a rash. The virus is severe on many Caribbean islands, so use precautions when traveling to that region.

Palm Beach County Mosquito Control Division is responsible for treating large areas of the county when we have an outbreak of disease-carrying mosquitoes. For current information on aerial spraying, contact the Air Spray Hotline at 561.642.8775. If mosquitoes are a problem in your area, report them on the website: <http://survey.pbcgov.com/s3/ERM-Mosquito-Service-Request>

The mosquitoes that vector this virus are container mosquitoes. This means they need contain-

ers of standing water for their egg depositing and later swimming stages. Remove containers that collect even small amounts of standing water. Do not forget about trays under potted plants that may hold water. Fountains, bird baths and water holding bromeliad plants can be treated with products like Mosquito Dunks that contain mosquito specific tox-



Asian Tiger Mosquito,
Aedes albopictus

ins. Encourage your neighbors to do the same. Inspect yards weekly for standing water.

due to perspiration, swimming, rainfall, high temperatures and humidity, so reapply as indicated on the label for the greatest protection.

Ineffective Repellents

- Sound emitting devices
- Consumption of garlic, bananas or vitamin B
- Bracelets
- Bug zappers
- Bug patches

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Also, on the label look for **EPA** followed by a number. This is required by law and indicates the United States Environmental Protection Agency approved the product.

Make sure an adult applies any repellents to children according to label instructions.

For additional information, contact the Palm Beach County Master Gardener Hotline at 561.233.1750 or email

mgardenfwd@pbcgov.org

Check out how to use repellents safely at:

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/oppref/insect/index.cfm>

Remember, these products lose effectiveness after application