



PUBLIC FACT SHEET

YELLOW FEVER

What is yellow fever?

Yellow fever is a disease caused by a virus.

How is yellow fever spread?

By the bite of mosquitoes infected with the virus. The mosquito is common in parts of central Africa and South America.

What are possible symptoms?

Symptoms may include:

- First stage:
 - Headaches, muscle aches, fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, yellowing of skin and eyes (jaundice)
- Second stage:
 - Most people recover at this stage, but others may move on to the third stage.
- Third stage:
 - Liver and kidney failure
 - Bleeding gums
 - Vomiting blood
 - Blood in the stool (poop)
 - Seizures
 - Coma
 - Death

How is yellow fever diagnosed?

A laboratory test. Tell your doctor if you have been in an area where yellow fever is present.

What is the treatment for yellow fever?

There is no specific treatment for yellow fever.

How can yellow fever be prevented?

- A vaccine is available for yellow fever. The vaccine should be given 10-14 days before traveling to an area where yellow fever is found.
- Use an effective mosquito repellent
- Cover skin with clothing
- Sleep under a bed net or in an air conditioned room

For more information on yellow fever:

Ottawa County Health Department
www.miOttawa.org
Medline Plus/National Institutes of Health
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001365.htm>