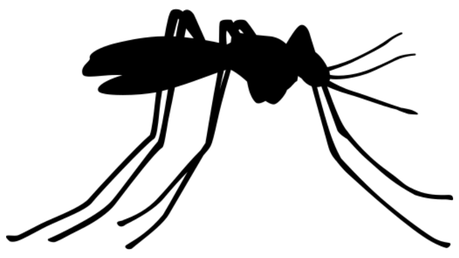
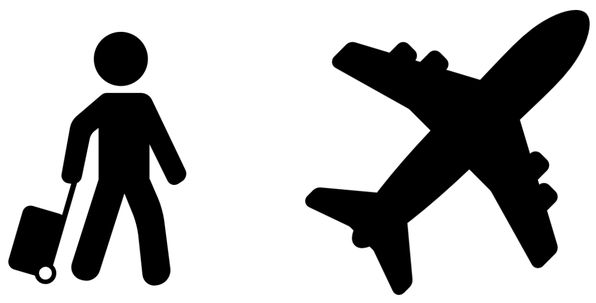
Yellow Fever

Fact Sheet



Yellow fever is a disease caused by a virus. It spreads to people through the bite of an infected mosquito. The mosquito that can carry this virus is not found in Maine.



Yellow fever is usually found in areas of South America and Africa. People who travel to these areas are at the greatest risk.

Mild Signs and Symptoms

Fever and Chills

Severe Headache

Nausea and Vomiting

Back Pain

Most people will not have symptoms. For those that do, symptoms usually start three to nine days after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Mild symptoms usually last a few days and can also include general body aches, feeling tired, and weakness.

Severe Signs and Symptoms

High Fever

Organ Failure

Bleeding

A few people will have mild signs and symptoms followed by a period of time that they feel better before severe signs and symptoms start. Severe disease can also include shock (not enough blood flow), jaundice (yellow skin), and can end in death.

Talk to your doctor if you have any of these signs or symptoms after traveling to an area with yellow fever. Your doctor may take blood samples to test for yellow fever. There is no specific treatment but over-the-counter drugs can help symptoms.

Prevent Yellow Fever

Get vaccinated before visiting areas with yellow fever*

Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outside

Use an EPA-approved repellent for use on skin such as:

- DEET
- Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus
- IR 3535
- Picaridin

Use permethrin on clothing

*The best way to prevent yellow fever is to get vaccinated. Vaccinations are available at designated yellow fever vaccination centers. Most travelers need a single dose of vaccine for long-lasting protection. However, some travelers need a booster dose which may also be required to visit some countries.

Travelers should also take prevention measures to prevent mosquito bites. Mosquitoes that spread yellow fever usually bite during the day. It is recommended to stay indoors in well-screened areas as much as possible.

For More Information, Visit:

1. www.maine.gov/dhhs/yellowfever
2. www.cdc.gov/yellowfever
3. wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/search-for-stamaril-clinics (To find a yellow fever vaccination center)
4. www.cdc.gov/yellowfever/vaccine/index.html (For more information about the yellow fever vaccine)
5. www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you (For EPA approved repellents)

You can also call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.

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