UF|IFAS Extension UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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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

Virus Symptoms

- Headache
- Fever
- Joint and muscle pain
- Joint Swelling
- Rash

Avoiding Mosquitoes

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

Chikungunya Virus in Palm Beach County

Chikungunya virus, sometimes called "contorted fever," is in Florida and Palm Beach County. The virus is transmitted between humans by two species of mosquitoes: the Asian tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, and the yellow fever mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*. Both mosquitoes are common in Florida. There currently is no vaccine for chikungunya virus and the best defense is to protect against mosquito bites and reduce mosquito populations.

Chikungunya virus generally is

Rash caused by chikungunya virus

not fatal, but requires a physician and testing for proper diagnosis. Symptoms include fever, joint and muscle pain, headache, joint swelling and a rash.

At the time of this publication, the virus is severe on many Caribbean islands. So, use caution if 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. Contact the Division at 561.967.6480 if mosquitoes are a problem in your area.

The two species of mosquitoes that vector this virus are container mosquitoes, meaning

they need containers of standing water for their larvae. Remove containers that collect even small amounts of standing water. Don't forget about dishes under plant containers that may hold water. Fountains, bird baths and water holding bromeliad plants can be treated with products containing mosquito specific bacteria like Mosquito Dunks. Encourage your neighbors to do the same. Inspect yards weekly.

Asian Tiger Mosquito, Aedes albopictus, one of two mosquitoes that vector this disease

Avoiding Mosquitoes

Avoid being outside as much as possible during periods of heavy mosquito activity, including dusk and evenings. 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-diemethylbenzamide** to insure the product contains DEET.

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

When using repellents, do not allow young children to apply the products and always follow safety instructions on the container. It is also judicious to look for **EPA** followed by a number on the label. This indicates it is an Environmental Protection Agency approved product.

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 decrease in effectiveness after application due to perspiration, swimming, rainfall, high temperatures and humidity, so reapply as indicated on the label for best effectiveness. Information

Ineffective Repellants
- Sound emitting devices
- Consumption of garlic, bananas and Vitamin B
- Bracelets
- Bug Zappers
- Bug patches

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