

# CDRS

Communicable Disease Reporting System

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE FACT SHEET **DENGUE FEVER**

Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne disease caused by the dengue virus. The disease is found in most tropical and subtropical areas. Cases originating in the United States are virtually unknown, but occasionally residents from or visitors to countries where dengue fever occurs may arrive in this country with dengue fever.

### Symptoms

Dengue fever has a sudden onset of the following symptoms:

- high fever (103-106o)
- severe headaches
- joint and muscle pain
- nausea/vomiting
- facial swelling
- rash, which may appear 3–4 days after the onset of fever.

### Transmission

- Mosquitoes carry the virus and can give it to people with just one bite
- Travelers to tropical areas are more likely to be exposed to the mosquitoes that carry this virus
- No human to human transmission occurs

### Treatment

- The symptoms of dengue can be treated with bed rest, fluids, and medications to reduce fever, such as acetaminophen
- Aspirin should be avoided

### Prevention

- Travelers should alert their physician of any fever illnesses occurring within 3 weeks after leaving an area in which the disease is present in higher numbers
- There is no vaccine for dengue fever; therefore, the traveler should avoid mosquito bites by remaining in well-screened or air-conditioned areas.
- Travelers to tropical areas are advised to use mosquito repellents on skin and clothing, to bring aerosol insecticides to use indoors, and use bed nets.

**All information is general in nature and is not intended to be used as a substitute for appropriate professional advice.**

Franklin County



Board of Health

Report Disease With Ease - 24 hours a day

[www.cdinfo.com](http://www.cdinfo.com)

Columbus and Franklin County Communicable Disease Reporting System

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