

Yellow Fever

Agent: Yellow fever virus

Mode of Transmission: Through the bite of several species of *Aedes* mosquitoes, most notably the yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*), which breeds in containers of water occurring around human habitations. Yellow fever mosquitoes occur in Virginia but have become uncommon after being displaced from their container breeding habitats by the arrival of the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) in Virginia in 1992. The Asian tiger mosquito is very common and is similar in behavior and appearance to the yellow fever mosquito, but is not currently known to be a competent vector of yellow fever.

Signs/Symptoms: Varying levels of severity; include a sudden onset of fever, chills, headache, backache, generalized muscle pain, prostration, nausea, and vomiting. Jaundice is usually mild in early disease but intensifies later. Among cases with jaundice, fatality is 20% to 50%.

Prevention: Vaccination against the yellow fever virus prior to visiting yellow fever endemic regions of the world.

No cases of yellow fever have been reported in Virginia since the nineteenth century.