

## **Yellow Fever**

Agent: Yellow fever virus (YFV)

Mode of Transmission: Transmitted through the bites of several species of infected *Aedes* mosquitoes, most notably the yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*), which breeds in containers of water occurring around human habitats. Yellow fever mosquitoes are occasionally found in Virginia but are relatively rare. The closely related Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) has become very common throughout Virginia and is also a potential vector of the yellow fever virus. Although the Asian tiger mosquito's competence as a yellow fever vector has been proven in laboratory studies, there are currently no records of this mosquito having transmitted yellow fever in nature.

Signs/Symptoms: Varying levels of severity. Most infected people are believed to be asymptomatic or have a mild disease, but symptoms could include a sudden onset of fever, chills, headache, backache, generalized muscle pain, prostration, nausea, vomiting and jaundice. Jaundice is usually mild in early disease, but intensifies later. Among cases with jaundice, the case-fatality rates are 20% to 50%.

Prevention: Vaccination against the yellow fever virus before traveling to yellow fever endemic regions of the world and avoidance of mosquito bites while traveling in these regions.

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