

Worldcue® Alert

Severity: Informational Alert

Health: Outbreaks of chikungunya and dengue fever reported in Maldives. Avoid exposure to mosquitoes.

This alert affects Maldives.

This alert began 27 May 2008 00:01 GMT and is scheduled to expire 03 Jul 2008 23:59 GMT.

Current Situation

Health authorities in the Maldives are reporting outbreaks of dengue fever and chikungunya, both mosquito-borne illnesses. Since Jan. 1, doctors have confirmed more than 470 dengue fever cases on 24 of the country's 26 atolls. The hardest-hit areas are Male, Villimale and Hulhumale. Authorities have reported a rise in chikungunya cases in the Addu atoll on the southern end of the Maldives archipelago. The majority of cases reside on the island of Madhoo-Feydhoo.

Background

In early 2007, officials confirmed widespread chikungunya outbreaks in the Maldives. The worst affected areas were the islands of Hinnavaru and Hulhudeli, where approximately 70 percent of the population became ill with chikungunya.

Infection with dengue viruses produces a spectrum of clinical illness ranging from a flu-like viral illness to severe and fatal hemorrhagic disease.

Chikungunya is similar to dengue fever. The word chikungunya means "doubled up." The disease is characterized by sudden fever and debilitating joint pains. It generally resolves within two weeks without medication. During the acute phase, however, the patient is unable to walk.

Advice

Take steps to protect against mosquito bites. There is no immunization for either disease. Seek the advice of a physician if a fever develops within two weeks after leaving the Maldives. Do not use aspirin products if you suspect dengue symptoms as these may exacerbate bleeding tendencies associated with the disease.

Related Advice: [Information on dengue fever.](#)

Related Advice: [Measures recommended to avoid diseases carried by insects.](#)

Related Advice: [Information on chikungunya fever.](#)

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