Department of Defense
Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch
Chikungunya in the Americas Surveillance Summary
(1 JUN 2017)

Approved for Public Release

For questions or comments, please contact:
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Between 1 JAN 2014 and 1 JUN 2017, 137 (+1) chikungunya cases among Military Healthcare System (MHS) beneficiaries have been reported in the Disease Reporting System Internet (DRSi). Of these, 121 were identified in a published study of chikungunya in the DoD from 1 JAN 2014 through 28 FEB 2015. An additional eleven cases had disease onset in 2015. Five (+1) cases had disease onset in 2016. No new cases had disease onset in 2017.

Since the virus was introduced into the Americas in late 2013, 47 Western Hemisphere countries or territories have reported 2,469,916 (+85,925 since AFHSB’s last update in FEB 2017) cases with 453 (+13) deaths. Only Canada, Chile, Cuba, and Uruguay have not reported autochthonous cases; however, Japan reported an imported case from Cuba in MAR 2016. The annual number of reported cases decreased from a high of 1,146,769 in 2014 to 504,373 in 2016. As of 26 MAY, PAHO has recorded 86,433 (+85,925) chikungunya cases (13 deaths (+13)) in 2017. The authors of a DEC 2016 Journal of Infectious Disease study on the epidemiology of the disease in the Americas said “the burden of chikungunya is unclear owing to inadequate disease surveillance and underdiagnosis,” and that it is “unclear to what degree [chikungunya virus] will persist and continue to circulate in the Americas.”

CDC has reported eight (+8) imported cases in 2017. Between JAN 2014 and DEC 2016, CDC reported 3,639 imported cases in U.S. states. The mainland U.S. has not recorded a locally transmitted case since 2015, when TX recorded one case. In 2014, FL recorded 12 cases. Puerto Rico, which reported 181 (+2) locally-transmitted confirmed chikungunya cases in 2016, has reported eight (+7) confirmed case through 12 MAY in 2017. As of 13 MAY, Mexico has reported 15 (+11) cases in 2017; one (+1) was in a border state. As of 26 MAY, 22 of 51 PAHO countries or territories have reported on chikungunya activity in 2017, four reported zero cases, and three reported imported cases only.

Outside of the Americas, CDC says the disease occurs across tropical and sub-tropical Asia, Africa, and the Pacific and Indian Ocean islands. Since JAN 2016, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Somalia have reported outbreaks. According to media reporting on 20 MAY, Pakistan has reported 3,108 suspected cases in Karachi since 19 DEC 2016 and 1,962 suspect cases in Baluchistan Province as of 17 APR in 2017.

**TRAVEL ADVISORY:** CDC is maintaining Watch - Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions travel alerts for the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America, and Fiji.

**SURVEILLANCE:** AFHSB’s guidance on detecting and reporting DoD cases of chikungunya is available; report confirmed cases in DRSi as “Chikungunya Fever.” Include in the report clinical presentation, travel history, and hospital admission status/dates.

All information has been verified unless noted otherwise. Sources include CDC, Puerto Rico DOH, Mexico MOH, ProMED, Outbreak News Today

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