

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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Contact:
(772) 221-4000 x 2130

Dengue Fever - Information for Clinicians

To Report a Dengue case:

- Phone Number: 772-221-4000 x 2130**
- Confidential Fax Number: 772-223-2533**
 - Patient's physical and history
 - Patient's demographic information
 - The positive lab result

Dengue infection is caused by any of four distinct but closely related dengue virus (DENV) serotypes (called DENV-1, -2, -3, and -4). Dengue is currently the most frequent cause of acute febrile illness among returning U.S. travelers from the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Asia.

Transmission occurs through the bite of an infected mosquito. Dengue may also be transmitted from mother to fetus in utero or to neonate at parturition. **An infected person should avoid mosquito bites while ill to prevent infection of local mosquitoes.**

Incubation period is two to 14 days.

Clinical presentation can range from a mild non-specific febrile syndrome, to classic dengue fever or "break-bone fever", or in the most severe forms of the disease (2-4% of cases), dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) and dengue shock syndrome (DSS). More than > 20% of cases may be asymptomatic. Dengue should be considered when locally acquired infection is suspected, or in persons that live in or have traveled to a dengue endemic area in the two weeks prior to symptom onset **and have fever and two of the following signs and symptoms:**

- Headache or retro-orbital pain
- Myalgia, bone pain, and/or arthralgia
- Anorexia and nausea
- Rash
- Thrombocytopenia
- Leucopenia
- Hemorrhagic fever or shock symptoms may appear after a 2-7 day febrile phase and include abdominal pain or tenderness, persistent vomiting, mucosal bleeding, liver enlargement, clinical fluid accumulation, or laboratory results indicating an increase in hematocrit concurrent with a rapid decrease in platelets.

Patients at risk for severe disease:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Previously infected with another dengue virus | Diabetes mellitus |
| Pregnant women | Chronic renal failure |
| Infants | Obesity |
| Elderly | Sickle cell anemia |

Laboratory testing

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) can be used to detect viral RNA in serum samples collected during the first 5 days post symptom onset. Testing for DENV specific IgM antibodies should be requested for serum specimens taken ≥ 6 days after onset. Martin CHD can provide guidance on how and when to submit samples to the Department of Health (DOH) Bureau of Public Health Laboratories.

Florida Department of Health

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