

# Factors to Discuss with U.S. Travelers Visiting Areas at Risk for Chikungunya

## Assess likelihood of exposure to chikungunya virus

### Evaluate level of disease activity at destination

- Is there an [outbreak](#)? Is there [elevated risk](#) for U.S. travelers?

### Consider duration of travel or residence and likelihood of future travel

- Longer duration travel to an area with transmission increases the likelihood a traveler might be exposed to an infected mosquito or future outbreak
- Travel to multiple areas with transmission increases the cumulative risk of infection

### Discuss likelihood of exposure to *Aedes* species mosquitoes and adherence to mosquito bite prevention measures

- *Aedes* species mosquito mostly bite during the day, can bite indoors and outdoors, and are most prevalent in urban areas
- Traveler willingness to [prevent mosquito bites](#) (e.g., EPA-registered repellent, protective clothing) will influence risk
- Risk will typically be lower for travelers mainly in mosquito-protected indoor settings (e.g., buildings with air conditioning or window screens)



## Assess risk factors for severe disease outcomes

### Consider age of traveler

- Adults aged >65 years, infants aged <1 year, and neonates have a higher risk for rare but severe disease presentations

### Review traveler's underlying medical or other conditions

- Certain medical conditions (e.g., diabetes, cardiac disease) increase the risk for severe disease
- Pre-existing joint problems are a risk factor for long-term arthralgia after infection
- Rarely, infection during pregnancy can result in fetal loss, stillbirth, or preterm birth. Infection near the time of delivery can cause severe disease in the newborn



## Assess traveler preferences

### Discuss the traveler's personal values and perception of risk

- Travelers likely have different risk tolerance for the possibility of acquiring chikungunya or the possibility of an adverse event after vaccination



Learn more: [Chikungunya Vaccine Information for Health Care Providers](#)