



Yellow Fever

Definition:

Yellow fever is an arboviral disease primarily found in tropical and subtropical areas of South America and Africa.

Signs and symptoms:

Symptoms include sudden onset of fever, chills, severe headache, back pain, general body aches, nausea, vomiting, fatigue and weakness. Many infections are mild, but an estimated 5%–25% of patients progress to more severe disease, including jaundice, renal insufficiency, cardiovascular instability, or hemorrhage. The case-fatality rate for severe yellow fever is 30%–60%.

Transmission:

Yellow fever is spread by the bite of infected *Aedes* or *Haemagogus* species mosquitoes. These mosquitoes are not endemic to Maine. Symptoms appear 3-9 days after being exposed.

Diagnosis:

Yellow fever is diagnosed through travel history, mosquito exposure, and laboratory testing of blood.

Role of the School Nurse:

Prevention

- Students and staff should visit a travel medicine provider before traveling internationally. Depending on the destination, yellow fever vaccine may be recommended or required.
- Travelers should take precautions against mosquito bites when in areas with yellow fever transmission.

Treatment Recommendations

- There is no specific treatment for yellow fever. Supportive therapy may include rest, and fever reducing medications.

Exclusions

- No exclusions

Reporting Requirements

Yellow fever is a reportable disease – report to Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821

Resources:

- Federal CDC yellow fever website <https://www.cdc.gov/yellowfever/index.html>