

Proposed case definition of Chikungunya Fever (WHO, SEARO)

In recent years, countries in the South-East Asia Region have been severely affected by the outbreaks of chikungunya fever. India was hit in 2006 after quiescence of 32 years. Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand have also been swept by this emerging infection. Various factors that have been incriminated to resurgence of chikungunya include mutation of the virus, absence of herd immunity, lack of efficient vector control activities, globalization and emergence of *Aedes albopictus*, in addition to *Aedes aegyptii* as an efficient vector for chikungunya virus.

Criteria for diagnosis:

1. **Clinical criteria:** acute onset of fever $>38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ and severe arthralgia/arthritis not explained by other medical conditions
2. **Epidemiological criteria:** residing or having visited epidemic areas, having reported transmission within 15 days prior to the onset of symptoms
3. **Laboratory criteria:** at least one of the following tests in the acute phase:
 - Virus isolation
 - Presence of viral RNA by RT-PCR
 - Presence of virus specific IgM antibodies in single serum sample collected in acute or convalescent stage.
 - Four-fold rising of IgG titers in samples collected at least three weeks apart

Case definition for surveillance:

Possible case: a patient meeting clinical criteria

Probable case: a patient meeting both the clinical and epidemiological criteria

Confirmed case: a patient meeting the laboratory criteria, irrespective of the clinical presentation