



## Mosquito-borne diseases

Most mosquitoes are just annoying, but some carry organisms that can cause diseases in humans. Impacts are affected by multiple factors, but outcomes can be debilitating, long-term and, at worst, fatal. Mosquito prevalence is boosted by warm weather and standing water.

<b>Information for clinicians</b>	<p>There are several mosquito-borne disease-causing viruses or bacteria found in Victoria. Others, found in northern Australia, may spread south due to changing climatic conditions. Range and prevalence vary according to climate and geography. Of course, other mosquito-borne diseases might be seen in tourists or returned travellers, but only organisms present in local mosquito populations have the capacity to generate outbreaks or case clusters.</p> <p>Locally acquired viruses and bacteria recorded are:</p> <p><b>Barmah Forest virus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://www.health.vic.gov.au/barmah-forest-virus-disease">Barmah Forest virus disease</a> - health.vic.gov.au</li><li>• <a href="#">Barmah Forest virus infection</a> - Better Health Channel</li></ul> <p><b>Ross River virus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://www.health.vic.gov.au/ross-river-virus-disease">Ross River virus disease</a> - health.vic.gov.au</li><li>• <a href="#">Ross River virus infection</a> - Better Health Channel</li></ul> <p><b>Japanese encephalitis virus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://www.health.vic.gov.au/japanese-encephalitis-virus">Japanese encephalitis virus</a> - health.vic.gov.au</li><li>• <a href="#">Japanese encephalitis</a> - Better Health Channel</li></ul> <p><b>Murray Valley encephalitis virus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://www.health.vic.gov.au/murray-valley-encephalitis">Murray Valley encephalitis</a> - health.vic.gov.au</li><li>• <a href="#">Murray Valley encephalitis</a> - Better Health Channel</li></ul> <p><b>Buruli ulcer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Buruli ulcer</a> - Better Health Channel</li><li>• Note that the role of mosquitoes in transmitting the bacteria that causes this condition is suspected but not confirmed.</li></ul>
-----------------------------------	---

	<p>Other viruses not yet recorded as locally acquired in Victoria but regarded as theoretically possible are:</p> <p><b>West Nile/Kunjin virus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.health.vic.gov.au/wnkd">West Nile virus and Kunjin virus disease</a> - health.vic.gov.au</li> <li>• <a href="#">West Nile virus</a> - Better Health Channel</li> </ul> <p><b>Dengue virus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.health.vic.gov.au/dengue">Dengue virus disease</a> - health.vic.gov.au</li> <li>• <a href="#">Dengue virus disease</a> - Better Health Channel</li> </ul> <p><b>Yellow fever virus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.health.vic.gov.au/yf">Yellow fever</a> (health.vic.gov.au)</li> </ul>
<b>Notifiable infectious diseases</b>	<p>All mosquito-borne diseases are notifiable. Notification is the responsibility of medical practitioners and pathology services. Requirements vary. Full details can be found on the Victorian Government's <a href="#">notifiable infectious diseases, conditions and micro-organisms</a> website page.</p>
<b>Bite prevention</b>	<p>Disease risk can be reduced by simple preventative actions.</p> <p>Advise staff and patients to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit time outside at dusk and in the evening when mosquitoes are most likely to be active.</li> <li>• Cover up by wearing long loose-fitting clothing.</li> <li>• Wear mosquito repellent containing picaridin or DEET on all exposed skin. For kids and babies, apply repellent to clothes rather than skin.</li> <li>• Use 'knockdown' insect spray, mosquito coils or plug-in repellent when outdoors.</li> <li>• Remove standing water around house and garden to reduce mosquito breeding options.</li> <li>• Install insect screens on all external doors and windows.</li> </ul>
<b>Vaccinations</b>	<p>Japanese encephalitis (JE) and yellow fever are the only diseases mentioned in this document that are vaccine preventable.</p> <p>Find out more in these Victorian Department of Health resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">JE Vaccine Eligibility Criteria</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">JE e-Learning module</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Yellow fever vaccination centres</a></li> </ul>
<b>Where to find more information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.health.vic.gov.au/mosquito-borne-diseases">Mosquito-borne diseases</a> - health.vic.gov.au</li> <li>• <a href="#">Mosquito-borne diseases in Victoria</a> - HealthPathways Melbourne</li> <li>• <a href="#">Protect yourself from mosquito-borne disease</a> - Better Health Channel</li> <li>• <a href="#">Mosquitoes - protect your home checklist</a> - Better Health Channel</li> <li>• <a href="#">Zoonoses</a> and <a href="#">Animal Related Injury and Illness</a> - HealthPathways Melbourne</li> </ul>

General emergency planning and preparation	
<b>Update your emergency response documents</b>	<p>The <a href="#">RACGP - Emergency Response Planning Tool</a> (ERPT) is a cloud based, practical online tool that assists general practices to better prepare for, respond to and recover from the impacts of emergencies and pandemics.</p> <p>It guides users through a series of planning templates where critical information about the practice can be entered and saved. The information is used to create an emergency response plan which is individually tailored to the general practice. The customised plan is then saved and stored in the cloud and can also be printed as a hard copy resource at any time.</p> <p>This will not only help you to stay focused and respond under pressure but get your business back up and running more quickly.</p> <p>Access to the ERPT requires an annual subscription.</p> <p>There are a number of alternative options available to assist users to develop an Emergency Response Plan. Listed are just a few:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check with your accreditation provider or on your accreditation portal for general practice specific templates.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Emergency plan template – Safe Work Australia</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Develop an emergency plan – Business.gov.au</a></li> </ul>
<b>Clinical and management advice for general practices</b>	<p>For general advice see these HealthPathways Melbourne pages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Preparing Patients for a Disaster</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Preparing a General Practice for a Disaster</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">General Practice Management During a Disaster</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Post Natural Disaster Health</a></li> </ul>
<b>Join the emergency volunteer list</b>	<p>If you have capacity to support in an emergency event, record your interest using the <a href="#">Emergency Response Register</a>.</p>

## Contact us

For more information or support email [primarycare@nwmpnh.org.au](mailto:primarycare@nwmpnh.org.au)

We acknowledge the peoples of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our work in the community takes place. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

### North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network

Level 6, 737 Bourke Street, Docklands VIC 3008 • ABN 93 153 323 436

T (03) 9347 1188 • F (03) 9347 7433 • E [nwmpnh@nwmpnh.org.au](mailto:nwmpnh@nwmpnh.org.au) • W [nwmpnh.org.au](http://nwmpnh.org.au)

