# Know the FACTS

## **Mosquito-borne Diseases**

Mosquitoes carry germs that can make you sick when they bite you. To protect yourself, it's important to avoid mosquito bites by taking precautions before spending time outdoors or traveling to areas where mosquitoes are more common, including Florida, Texas, Hawaii, the Caribbean, Central America, South America, Southeast Asia and Pacific Islands.

### **Mosquito-borne diseases in Ohio**

Diseases spread by mosquitoes are a concern in Ohio each year. Mosquito-borne diseases that are carried by mosquitoes in Ohio include:

- Eastern equine encephalitis virus
- Western equine encephalitis virus
- La Crosse virus
- St. Louis encephalitis virus
- West Nile virus

#### Mosquito-borne diseases Ohioans can acquire when traveling

- Chikungunya virus
- Dengue
- Japanese encephalitis virus
- Malaria
- Yellow fever
- Zika virus

If you develop symptoms of a mosquito-borne disease, such as fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, or rash, seek medical attention immediately and inform your healthcare provider about your travel history.

#### Plan before you travel

Check CDC travel notices to get updates on diseases at your destination, including mosquitoborne diseases. Talk to a healthcare provider about your travel plans and tell you of the available vaccines as well as other measures to reduce your risk of a mosquitoborne disease.



#### **Pack appropriately**

- Bring EPA-registered insect repellent to use when outdoors.
- Consider bringing clothing treated with permethrin or another EPA-registered repellent for extra protection.
- Pack light-colored clothing, long-sleeved shirts or jackets, and long pants to protect against mosquito bites.
- Purchase mosquito netting to use when sleeping outdoors or in an unscreened structure.

#### **Additional resources**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Travelers' Health website: cdc.gov/travel

**Ohio Department of Health (ODH):** odh.ohio.gov/ know-our-programs/zoonotic-disease-program/ diseases/mosquito-borne-diseases



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