

What you need to know about mosquitoes



There are different types of mosquitoes, which include the *Aedes albopictus*, whose particularity is that it bites especially during the day. It is also named "tiger" mosquito due to its black and white striped legs and body.

The "tiger" mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) is, above all, a nuisance: it bites during the day and its bite is painful. However, it can transmit the dengue or the chikungunya under certain very particular conditions.

How could a chikungunya and dengue epidemic occur in the south of France and how can it be prevented?

There is currently no chikungunya nor a dengue epidemic in Metropolitan France. However, although this mosquito has been present in Asia, Africa, America and the Indian Ocean for years, **it has become established in the south of France since 2004.**

A person travels to a country where one of these diseases is present and is bitten by a mosquito infected with the dengue or chikungunya virus. When he returns to France, if a healthy *Aedes albopictus*

mosquito bites this infected person, the mosquito also becomes infected. This mosquito can then transmit the dengue or chikungunya virus to another healthy person by biting it. The virus is spread to other people in this way.

I am particularly careful when I return from a tropical zone: I go and see a doctor in case of a high fever and pain in the joints or general pain.

How can you protect yourself from getting bitten?

To avoid getting bitten

- Apply anti-mosquito products to your skin, especially during the day. Ask your doctor or physician for advice before using them, especially in the case of children and pregnant women
- Wear baggy clothes that cover all your body
- Babies can sleep under an impregnated mosquito net
- Use insecticide diffusers indoors, and insect killer lamps outdoors
- If needed and if you have air conditioning, turn it on: mosquitoes flee from cold places

For more information:
www.sante.gouv.fr
www.invs.sante.fr

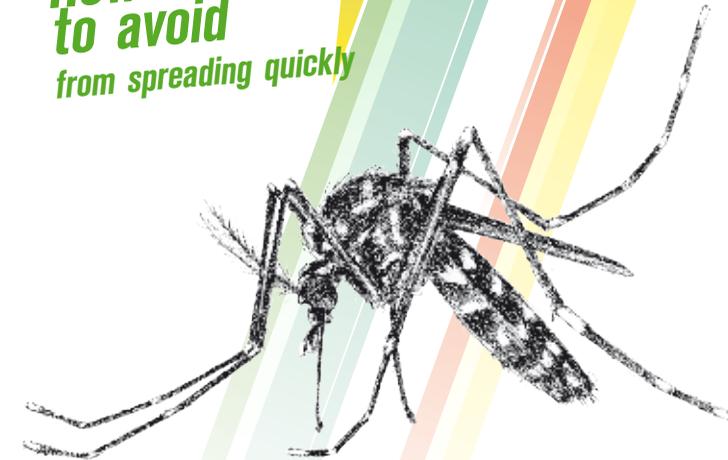
"TIGER MOSQUITO", *Aedes albopictus*

NUISANCE & DISEASES

What you need to know about this mosquito

How to protect yourself

How to avoid from spreading quickly



How do mosquitoes live?

Mosquitoes go through four stages in their life-cycle : **egg, larva, pupa and adult.** Larvae need stagnant water to develop.

Not all mosquitoes live in the same ecological niche. The "tiger" mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) is strongly connected to man and lives as close as possible to us. It does not travel much.

In this way, a mosquito that bites you is born in your home!

It develops in small quantities of water : in flower pots, vases or any receptacle containing water.

Why do mosquitoes like living near our homes ?

Because there they find

- ✓ food for their eggs, by biting us
- ✓ places to lay their eggs in stagnant water
- ✓ resting places under the shadow of trees

Anti-mosquito products (insecticides and repellents) do not get rid of mosquitoes in the long term. Their spawning and resting places also need to be limited.

To remove mosquito larvae you need to

Remove the places where water can become stagnant

- ✓ small detritus
- ✓ used tyres: you may also fill them with earth, if you do not want to throw them away
- ✓ wood
- ✓ green waste



Change plant and flower water once a week or if possible

- ✓ remove flower pot saucers
- ✓ replace water in vases with humid sand



Check rainwater and waste water drainage is good and clean regularly

- ✓ gutters
- ✓ water collectors
- ✓ culverts and drainages

Cover water tanks with a mosquito net or a cloth

- ✓ water bottles
- ✓ tanks
- ✓ pools

Cover swimming pools when they are not being used and withdraw the water from potholes or treat the water (bleach, chlorine, etc.).

To remove adult mosquito resting places, consider

- ✓ clearing the brushwood, mowing tall grass and pruning hedges
- ✓ pruning trees
- ✓ removing fallen fruit and green waste
- ✓ reducing the humid sources (limit watering)
- ✓ maintaining your garden