Ross River virus disease

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Ross River virus is spread by mosquitoes. Joint inflammation and pain, fatigue and muscle aches are the usual symptoms of Ross River virus disease. Many infected people also develop a rash. Reduce the chance of being bitten by mosquitoes by wearing long, loose-fitting clothes and use effective insect repellents in mosquito-prone areas.

Ross River virus (RRV) disease can cause joint inflammation and pain, fatigue and muscle aches. Many infected people also develop a rash of variable appearance. Most people recover completely within a year, although some people have intermittent symptoms for a year or more. Ross River virus disease is caused by an alphavirus, which is spread by mosquitoes. Approximately 30 per cent of people infected with the virus will develop symptoms three to 11 days after being infected with others developing symptoms up to 21 days after the exposure. When in mosquito-prone areas, wear loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing and use insect repellent to help reduce the chance of being bitten by mosquitoes.

Ross River virus disease causes arthritis or joint pain

Arthritis caused by Ross River virus disease lasts from days to months. The joints commonly affected include:

- wrists
- knees
- ankles
- small joints of the extremities, such as fingers or toes.

Some people may have transient symptoms that come and go (but become less severe) for a year or more.

Other symptoms of Ross River virus disease

Ross River virus disease can also cause:

- a rash of variable appearance on the trunk and limbs affects many people with this virus. It usually occurs one to 10 days after the onset of arthritis and can last up to seven to 10 days
- enlargement of lymph nodes, especially in the groin or the armpit
- a feeling of ‘pins and needles’ and tenderness on the soles of one’s feet and palms of one’s hands (in a small number of infected people).

Fever can occur, but is not usually a prominent feature.

Mosquitoes spread Ross River virus

People can be infected with Ross River virus when they are bitten by a mosquito carrying the virus. It is suspected that mosquitoes pick up the virus from kangaroos and possibly other marsupials and wild rodents, which can act as a natural host for the virus. Diseases that are spread by insects are known as ‘vector-borne’ diseases.

Ross River virus disease is common in Australia

Ross River virus disease occurs throughout most regions of Australia, particularly around inland waterways and coastal regions. Epidemics occur from time to time and are related to environmental conditions that encourage mosquito breeding such as heavy rainfall, floods, high tides and temperature.

The overuse of water, particularly in rural areas, also contributes to mosquito breeding.

Blood tests will show if you have Ross River virus

Blood tests can reveal if a person has been infected with Ross River virus recently or in the past. If there has been an outbreak in your local area, the disease may be diagnosed by doctors solely on symptoms. However, blood tests are recommended to confirm the diagnosis.

Most people recover from RRV

The majority of people with Ross River virus disease recover completely within a year. Current knowledge suggests that the body builds an immune response to the virus, which is likely to protect you against the disease for the rest of your life.

Some people may have symptoms that last longer than a year or recur but these may be due to other causes. See your doctor to check your diagnosis if you are concerned about ongoing symptoms.

Preventing Ross River virus disease
To reduce the risk of infection:

- Wear long, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing and use effective insect repellents, which need to be applied regularly according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Avoid mosquito-prone areas, especially at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are more active and likely to bite.
- Ensure that your accommodation has flyscreens properly fitted to windows and external doors.
- Reduce the number of potential mosquito breeding habitats around your home by ensuring no stagnant water is present. Containers holding water should be emptied and washed regularly.

Where to get help

- Your GP (doctor)
- Your local council
- Communicable Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance, Department of Health and Human Services, Victorian Government Tel. 1300 651 160

References

- Ross River virus disease, Infectious Diseases Epidemiology and Surveillance (Blue Book), Department of Health and Human Services, Victorian Government.
Infections explained

- **Antibiotic resistant bacteria**
  Careful prescribing of antibiotics will minimise the emergence of antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria...

- **Beat the Bite**
  Beat the Bite is a Victorian government health campaign to highlight awareness of the risk of mosquito-borne diseases in Victoria. Find resources to be printed and shared along with videos that tell...

- **Chest infections**
  A chest infection affects your lungs, either in the larger airways (bronchitis) or in the smaller air sacs (pneumonia)...

- **Fever**
  A mild fever up to 39°C can actually help the immune system to get rid of an infection...

- **Immunisation history statements for children**
  By law, parents or guardians must provide an Immunisation History Statement when enrolling children in any childcare service, kindergarten or primary school in Victoria...

- **Infection risk - cardiac surgery and mycobacteria**
  Mycobacterium chimaera is a type of bacterium known as a non-tuberculous mycobacterium (NTM). There is a risk that heater cooler units (HCUs) used in cardiac (heart) surgery may be contaminated with...

- **Infections – bacterial and viral**
  Many bacterial infections can be treated with antibiotics, but they are useless against viral infections...

- **Who provides immunisations in Victoria**
  Immunisations in Victoria are provided by local councils, GPs and specially qualified nurses in medical clinics and community health services, some Maternal and Child Health nurses, travel clinics and...

Preventing infections

- **Antibacterial cleaning products**
  The Western obsession with cleanliness may be partly responsible for the increase in allergic asthma and conditions such as rhinitis...
• Beat the Bite! Mosquito-borne disease risk and management (video)
  Dr Finn Romanes, public health doctor at Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services explains the department’s program to monitor and manage the risks associated with Mosquitoes. Learn about the.

• Food safety while travelling
  Travelling, eating and drinking go together but unfortunately, traveller's diarrhoea and other food-related illnesses can sometimes come along for the ride.

• Handwashing - why it's important
  Washing your hands with soap and warm water can help prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

• Home tattooing
  Home tattooing, or getting tattoos overseas, puts you at risk of serious complications that can be debilitating and life-long.

• Immunisation history statements for children
  By law, parents or guardians must provide an Immunisation History Statement when enrolling children in any childcare service, kindergarten or primary school in Victoria.

• Kissing and your health
  While disease-causing bugs can be transferred during a kiss, most won’t cause disease and the risk of serious disease is very small.

• Personal hygiene
  Good personal hygiene is one of the most effective ways to protect ourselves and others from illness.

• Pets – safe handling of reptiles and tropical fish
  People in contact with tropical fish and reptiles such as turtles, lizards and snakes may be at risk of infections and illness due to germs (such as bacteria, viruses and parasites) carried on the.

• Piercings
  If you want to have your body pierced, choose an experienced, registered practitioner to reduce the risks of infection and scarring.

• Preventing healthcare associated infection (HAI)
  There are things you can do to reduce the chance of getting an infection while you are in hospital.

• Quarantine at home - coping tips
  You may be asked to quarantine yourself at home if you have developed, or been exposed to, an infectious disease.

• Tattoos
  If you want to get a tattoo, choose an experienced, registered practitioner to reduce the risks of infection and scarring.

• Time to immunise - free vaccines for men who have sex with men
  Immunisation is one of the best ways you can protect yourself and others from infectious diseases in our community. In partnership with Thorne Harbour Health (formerly Victorian AIDS Council), the.

• Travel health and safety tips (slide show)
  We all love travelling to new and exotic places, but unfortunately illnesses and unforeseen events can ruin the trip of a lifetime. With a little effort, take a few of these simple precautions to make.

• Travel immunisation
  If you are travelling overseas, check with your doctor well in advance to find out what immunisations you need.

• Vaccines
  Vaccines trick the body into building immunity against infectious diseases without causing the actual disease.

• Workplace safety - infection control
  The spread of many pathogens in the workplace can be prevented with regular hand washing.

Managing infections

• Antibiotic resistant bacteria

betterhealth.vic.gov.au
Careful prescribing of antibiotics will minimise the emergence of antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria...

- **Handwashing - why it's important**
  Washing your hands with soap and warm water can help prevent the spread of infectious diseases...

- **Medicines and side effects**
  Complementary medicines can interact with pharmaceutical medicines...

- **Medicines - safety issues**
  Make sure your doctor knows about every medicine you take, including vitamins...

- **Preventing healthcare associated infection (HAI)**
  There are things you can do to reduce the chance of getting an infection while you are in hospital...

- **Quarantine at home - coping tips**
  You may be asked to quarantine yourself at home if you have developed, or been exposed to, an infectious disease...

- **Workplace safety - infection control**
  The spread of many pathogens in the workplace can be prevented with regular hand washing...

**Childhood infections**

- **Beat the Bite**
  Beat the Bite is a Victorian government health campaign to highlight awareness of the risk of mosquito-borne diseases in Victoria. Find resources to be printed and shared along with videos that tell...

- **Boils**
  Some areas of the body are more susceptible to boils, including the face, throat, armpits, groin and buttocks...

- **Chickenpox**
  Chickenpox is highly contagious, but it is generally mild and gets better without the need for special treatment...

- **Coughing and wheezing in children**
  Coughing and wheezing in babies can be distressing for you and your baby, but in most cases symptoms can be relieved at home...

- **Diphtheria**
  Diphtheria is a serious bacterial disease that causes severe inflammation of the nose, throat and windpipe...

- **Fever - children**
  Fever is a way in which the body fights infection. A fever is not dangerous and does not always indicate a serious illness...

- **Fever - febrile convulsions**
  A febrile convulsion is a fit that occurs in children when they have a high fever...

- **Gastroenteritis in children**
  Gastroenteritis or Gastro can be dangerous for very young babies. Gastro is common in young children and spreads easily. Gastro is a bowel infection which causes diarrhoea (runny or watery poo) and...

- **Hand, foot and mouth disease**
  Good personal hygiene is essential to prevent the spread of hand, foot and mouth disease to others, both for those infected and their carers...

- **Impetigo - school sores**
  Impetigo, or school sores, is a highly contagious skin infection that commonly affects school-aged children...

- **Measles**
  Measles can cause serious and sometimes fatal complications, including pneumonia and brain inflammation...

- **Measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chickenpox) – immunisation**
  Immunisation is the best protection against measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (chickenpox)...

- **Melissa’s story (video)**
  Melissa shares her story of how her baby caught chickenpox at 5 weeks old...

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Meningitis
Meningitis can cause death and requires urgent medical attention.

Middle ear infections
Middle ear infections often happen during or after a child has a cold.

Mumps
Mumps is a viral illness that causes fever and swollen salivary glands, and a swollen face.

Roseola infantum
Roseola is a mild viral infection with associated fever and rash that affects babies and young children.

Rubella
Rubella is a mild illness for most people, but very dangerous for pregnant women and their babies.

Slapped cheek disease
Children with slapped cheek do not need to be kept home from school or day care, as cases are only contagious before the onset of the rash.

Streptococcal infection – group B
Group B streptococcal bacteria can cause a wide range of illnesses in susceptible people including newborns, the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions such as diabetes or cancer. Out...

Viral encephalitis
Viral encephalitis is inflammation of the brain caused by a virus and can cause permanent brain damage.

Whooping cough
The major symptom of whooping cough is a severe cough, which is often followed by a 'whooping' sound.

Whooping cough – a family’s experience (video)
A family shares their experience when their baby daughter contracted whooping cough (or pertussis).

Animal to human infections

Anthrax
Anthrax is a rare but potentially fatal bacterial disease that occasionally infects humans.

Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV)
The simplest form of prevention for lyssavirus is to avoid close contact with bats.

Barmah Forest virus disease
Barmah Forest virus (BFV) disease can cause joint inflammation and pain, fatigue and a rash of variable appearance. A full recovery can be expected. Most people recover completely within six months.

Beat the Bite
Beat the Bite is a Victorian government health campaign to highlight awareness of the risk of mosquito-borne diseases in Victoria. Find resources to be printed and shared along with videos that tell...

Beat the Bite! Mosquito-borne disease risk and management (video)
Dr Finn Romaulde, public health doctor at Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services explains the department’s program to monitor and manage the risks associated with Mosquitoes. Learn about the...

Bird flu (avian influenza)
The symptoms of bird flu in humans are similar to those of regular influenza.

Dengue virus disease
Dengue virus disease (dengue fever, or 'dengue') is a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes in many tropical and subtropical parts of the world.

Hendra virus
The best defence against Hendra virus is to avoid contact with an infected horse.

Leptospirosis
Leptospirosis is a disease spread from animals to humans, caused by infection with the bacteria Leptospira.
• Malaria
  Travellers who visit malarial locations should avoid mosquito bites and take anti-malarial drugs.

• Mosquitoes can carry diseases
  You can reduce the risk of mosquito bites if you get rid of potential mosquito breeding sites around your home.

• Murray Valley encephalitis
  The only protection from Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) is to avoid mosquito bites.

• Pets – safe handling of reptiles and tropical fish
  People in contact with tropical fish and reptiles such as turtles, lizards and snakes may be at risk of infections and illness due to germs (such as bacteria, viruses and parasites) carried on the.

• Pinworms
  Despite the unsavoury reputation, a pinworm infection (worms) is relatively harmless and easily treated.

• Pseudococci - parrot fever
  People who have birds as pets, poultry workers and anyone working in aviaries or pet shops, are most at risk of catching psittacosis.

• Q fever
  Q fever is caused by a micro-organism that can be carried by cattle, sheep and goats.

• Ross River virus disease
  Most people recover from Ross River virus disease, although some people have symptoms for a year or more.

• Tapeworms and hydatid disease
  It's important for your own health to control tapeworm infection in your dog.

• Toxoplasmosis
  Problems only occur if a woman becomes infected with parasites that cause toxoplasmosis for the first time while pregnant.

• West Nile virus
  All disease-carrying mosquitoes breed in water or require water to enable eggs to hatch.

• Zika virus
  Zika virus is a mosquito-borne virus. There is no cure, specific treatment or vaccine for Zika virus.

A-Z of infectious disorders

• Anthrax
  Anthrax is a rare but potentially fatal bacterial disease that occasionally infects humans.

• Aspergillus
  Aspergillus is a fungus that commonly grows on rotting vegetation. It can cause asthma symptoms.

• Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV)
  The simplest form of prevention for lyssavirus is to avoid close contact with bats.

• Bacterial vaginosis
  Bacterial vaginosis (BV) is caused by an imbalance of the bacteria normally present in the vagina.

• Barmah Forest virus disease
  Barmah Forest virus (BFV) disease can cause joint inflammation and pain, fatigue and a rash of variable appearance. A full recovery can be expected. Most people recover completely within six months.

• Beat the Bite
  Beat the Bite is a Victorian government health campaign to highlight awareness of the risk of mosquito-borne diseases in Victoria. Find resources to be printed and shared along with videos that tell.

• Beat the Bite! Mosquito-borne disease risk and management (video)
  Dr Finn Romanas, public health doctor at Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services explains the department’s program to monitor and manage the risks associated with Mosquitoes. Learn about the.
Beat the Bite mosquito - learn how to beat the bite (video)

Hear from Victoria's Chief Health Officer talk about how you can protect yourself from mosquitoes this season...

Bird flu (avian influenza)
The symptoms of bird flu in humans are similar to those of regular influenza...

Bites and stings – first aid
If you are bitten or stung by an insect or animal, apply first aid and seek medical treatment as soon as possible...

Boils
Some areas of the body are more susceptible to boils, including the face, throat, armpits, groin and buttocks...

Botulism
Botulism is considered a medical emergency. If untreated, it may cause death...

Buruli ulcer
Since the ulcer gets bigger with time, early diagnosis and prompt treatment of Bairnsdale disease can keep skin loss to a minimum...

Candida auris (C. auris)
Candida is a genus of fungi (yeasts) that live on the skin and inside the human body. Candida auris (also called C. auris) is an uncommon fungus that can cause serious infections...

Cellulitis
Cellulitis is a bacterial infection of the skin that occurs most commonly on the lower legs and in areas where the skin is damaged or inflamed...

Chest infections
A chest infection affects your lungs, either in the larger airways (bronchitis) or in the smaller air sacs (pneumonia)...

Chickenpox
Chickenpox is highly contagious, but it is generally mild and gets better without the need for special treatment...

Chlamydia
Chlamydia is often called the 'silent infection' because most people do not realise they have it...

Colds
Cold viruses are spread by sneezing, coughing and hand contact...

Cold sores
Cold sores are blisters around the mouth and nose, caused by the herpes simplex virus...

Coughing and wheezing in children
Coughing and wheezing in babies can be distressing for you and your baby, but in most cases symptoms can be relieved at home...

Cystitis
Cystitis is the most common urinary tract infection in women...

Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
If an unborn baby gets CMV from their mother, it can cause hearing loss and intellectual disability...

Dengue virus disease
Dengue virus disease (dengue fever, or ‘dengue’) is a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes in many tropical and subtropical parts of the world...

Diarrhoea
Acute diarrhoea in babies and young children can be life threatening...

Diphtheria
Diphtheria is a serious bacterial disease that causes severe inflammation of the nose, throat and windpipe...

Ebola virus disease (EVD)
Ebola virus is a rare disease that can cause severe symptoms and can be life-threatening...

Epididymitis
Epididymitis is an infection that causes inflammation of the epididymis.

- Eyes - trachoma
  A clean face and clean environment are the best protection against trachoma.

- Fatigue fighting tips
  Activity and nutrition help fight fatigue and put more energy into your daily life.

- Fever - children
  Fever is a way in which the body fights infection. A fever is not dangerous and does not always indicate a serious illness.

- Fever - febrile convulsions
  A febrile convulsion is a fit that occurs in children when they have a high fever.

- Flu (influenza)
  Influenza (the flu) is caused by a virus. The flu is more than just a bad cold and can occasionally lead to serious complications, including death. Specific antiviral medication is available. It is...

- Food poisoning - listeria
  Listeria infection is uncommon but very dangerous for the elderly, people whose immune systems are not working properly and pregnant women and their unborn babies.

- Gastroenteritis
  It is important to establish the cause of gastro, as different types of gastroenteritis respond to different treatments.

- Gastroenteritis - amoebiasis
  Amoebiasis can cause diarrhoea among travellers to developing countries.

- Gastroenteritis - campylobacteriosis
  Campylobacteriosis is a type of gastroenteritis and is more common in children under five years of age and young adults.

- Gastroenteritis - cryptosporidiosis
  Outbreaks of cryptosporidiosis have been associated with child care centres, public swimming pools and contaminated water supplies.

- Gastroenteritis - giardiasis
  Most records infected with Giardia parasites do not develop symptoms but can still spread the infection to others.

- Gastroenteritis in children
  Gastroenteritis or Gastro can be dangerous for very young babies. Gastro is common in young children and spreads easily. Gastro is a bowel infection which causes diarrhoea (runny or watery poo) and...

- Gastroenteritis - salmonellosis
  You may be more prone to salmonellosis if you are elderly, have another medical condition (such as a weakened immune system) or are malnourished.

- Gastroenteritis - shigella
  Outbreaks of shigella gastroenteritis can occur in institutional settings, particularly where children are still in nappies or adults are incontinent.

- Genital herpes
  Many people with genital herpes are not aware that they have the infection, because they have no symptoms.

- Genital warts
  Genital warts are one of the most common sexually transmissible infections.

- Glandular fever
  Glandular fever is most common among high school and university students, but young children can also become infected by saliva on toys, shared cups, or the hands of carers.

- Gonorrhoea
  Gonorrhoea, also spelt gonorrhoea, affects both men and women and is transmitted during sex, it may lead to infertility in women if left untreated.

- Haemolytic uraemic syndrome
  Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS) is a rare condition which can lead to chronic kidney damage or death from kidney failure.

- Hand, foot and mouth disease

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Good personal hygiene is essential to prevent the spread of hand, foot and mouth disease to others, both for those infected and their carers.

- **Heart conditions - endocarditis**
  Endocarditis is an infection of the heart valves or the inner lining of the heart.

- **Hendra virus**
  The best defence against Hendra virus is to avoid contact with an infected horse.

- **Hepatitis**
  Hepatitis is an umbrella term for several diseases that affect the liver.

- **Hepatitis A**
  Immunisation is the best protection against hepatitis A infection and it is recommended for people in high-risk groups.

- **Hepatitis B**
  Hepatitis B is a viral infection that affects the liver and can lead to serious illness or death.

- **Hepatitis C**
  In Australia, hepatitis C is most often spread through the sharing of unsterile drug injecting equipment. New all oral combination treatment has greatly improved health outcomes for people with...

- **Hepatitis C Cure - what it means for Victorians (video)**
  Hepatitis C Cure - what it means for Victorians.

- **HIV**
  In Australia, HIV is most commonly spread when having sex without a condom and when sharing needles and other injecting equipment.

- **Impetigo - school sores**
  Impetigo, or school sores, is a highly contagious skin infection that commonly affects school-aged children.

- **Labyrinthitis and vestibular neuritis**
  Labyrinthitis and vestibular neuritis are disorders that result in inflammation of the inner ear and the nerve connecting the inner ear to the brain.

- **Legionnaires' disease**
  Legionnaires' disease is a rare form of pneumonia.

- **Leprosy (Hansen’s disease)**
  Once a person with leprosy begins treatment they quickly become non-infectious.

- **Leptospirosis**
  Leptospirosis is a disease spread from animals to humans, caused by infection with the bacteria Leptospira.

- **Malaria**
  Travellers who visit malarial locations should avoid mosquito bites and take anti-malarial drugs.

- **Measles**
  Measles can cause serious and sometimes fatal complications, including pneumonia and brain inflammation.

- **Meningitis**
  Meningitis can cause death and requires urgent medical attention.

- **Meningococcal disease**
  Do not leave young adults alone if they suddenly develop a fever because they may become seriously ill very quickly.

- **Molluscum contagiosum**
  Molluscum contagiosum can be mistaken for genital warts or pimples, check with your doctor for an accurate diagnosis.

- **Mosquitoes can carry diseases**
  You can reduce the risk of mosquito bites if you get rid of potential mosquito breeding sites around your home.
- **Mumps**
  Mumps is a viral illness that causes fever and swollen salivary glands, and a swollen face.

- **Murray Valley encephalitis**
  The only protection from Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) is to avoid mosquito bites.

- **New drugs for the treatment of hepatitis C – Frequently Asked Questions for patients**
  In Australia, hepatitis C is most often spread through the sharing of unsterile drug injecting equipment. New all oral combination treatment has greatly improved health outcomes for people with.

- **Osteomyelitis**
  Osteomyelitis means an infection of bone which can either be recent or longstanding.

- **Parechovirus**
  Good personal hygiene is essential to prevent the spread of parechovirus to others, both for those infected and their carers.

- **Pericarditis**
  Pericarditis symptoms may be similar to those of heart attack and include chest pain and abnormal heart rhythms.

- **Pets – safe handling of reptiles and tropical fish**
  People in contact with tropical fish and reptiles such as turtles, lizards and snakes may be at risk of infections and illness due to germs (such as bacteria, viruses and parasites) carried on the.

- **Pinworms**
  Despite the unsavoury reputation, a pinworm infection (worms) is relatively harmless and easily treated.

- **Pleurisy**
  Treating any infection of the upper respiratory tract quickly will reduce the risk of developing pleurisy.

- **Pneumococcal disease**
  Pneumococcal disease is a leading cause of serious illness and death in young children.

- **Pneumonia**
  Anyone can get pneumonia, but young children and the elderly are most susceptible.

- **Polio and post-polio syndrome**
  Polio is a serious disease that can cause life-threatening paralysis and possibly death.

- **Psittacosis – parrot fever**
  People who have birds as pets, poultry workers and anyone working in aviaries or pet shops, are most at risk of catching psittacosis.

- **Q fever**
  Q fever is caused by a micro-organism that can be carried by cattle, sheep and goats.

- **Reactive arthritis**
  Reactive arthritis is a form of arthritis that occurs as a result of some bacterial infections.

- **Rheumatic fever**
  Untreated rheumatic fever can lead to serious complications such as rheumatic heart disease.

- **Roseola infantum**
  Roseola is a mild viral infection with associated fever and rash that affects babies and young children.

- **Ross River virus disease**
  Most people recover from Ross River virus disease, although some people have symptoms for a year or more.

- **Rotavirus**
  Rotavirus is a common cause of viral gastroenteritis for Australian babies and preschool children.

- **Rubella**
  Rubella is a mild illness for most people, but very dangerous for pregnant women and their babies.
• **Salpingitis**
  Salpingitis is one of the most common causes of female infertility and may permanently damage the fallopian tubes.

• **Septicaemia**
  Bacteria in the bowels, urinary tract, mouth and skin can cause disease if they get into the bloodstream.

• **Shiga toxin-producing E.coli**
  There are many types of E.coli bacteria, most of which are harmless. However, some types of E.coli produce toxins (poisons) that can cause gastroenteritis (gastro). One of these types of E.coli is...

• **Shingles**
  Shingles is caused by the same virus responsible for chickenpox.

• **Slapped cheek disease**
  Children with slapped cheek do not need to be kept home from school or day care, as cases are only contagious before the onset of the rash.

• **Smallpox**
  Smallpox was once a feared and highly contagious viral disease.

• **Staphylococcus aureus - golden staph**
  Hospital patients are more likely to be infected by golden staph because of surgical or other wounds.

• **Streptococcal infection - group A**
  Streptococcal infection? group A can cause sore throats (pharyngitis), scarlet fever or impetigo (school sores).

• **Streptococcal infection – group B**
  Group B streptococcal bacteria can cause a wide range of illnesses in susceptible people including newborns, the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions such as diabetes or cancer. Out...

• **Styes**
  Styes may be red and sore, but they generally do not cause any damage to the eye or eyelids.

• **Swimmer's ear**
  Swimmer's ear can be triggered by exposure to water or mechanical damage due to overzealous cleaning.

• **Tapeworms and hydatid disease**
  It's important for your own health to control tapeworm infection in your dog.

• **Tetanus**
  Tetanus is a life-threatening disease and immunisation is the best way to reduce your risk.

• **Time to immunise - free vaccines for men who have sex with men**
  Immunisation is one of the best ways you can protect yourself and others from infectious diseases in our community. In partnership with Thorne Harbour Health (formerly Victorian AIDS Council), the...

• **Tinea**
  Tinea is contagious and can be spread by skin-to-skin contact or indirectly through towels, clothes or floors.

• **Toxic shock syndrome (TSS)**
  If you think you could have toxic shock syndrome, stop using tampons immediately and go to the emergency department of your nearest hospital.

• **Toxoplasmosis**
  Problems only occur if a woman becomes infected with parasites that cause toxoplasmosis for the first time while pregnant.

• **Travel health - yellow fever immunisation**
  If you are travelling or passing through areas infected with yellow fever, some countries require you to be vaccinated.

• **Tuberculosis (TB)**
  Tuberculosis is spread when a person with an active infection coughs, laughs, sings or sneezes.

• **Urinary tract infections (UTI)**
  Urinary tract infections (UTIs) can target the urethra, bladder or kidneys.
- **Vaginal thrush**
  Vaginal thrush is a common infection caused by an overgrowth of yeasts in the vagina.

- **Viral encephalitis**
  Viral encephalitis is inflammation of the brain caused by a virus and can cause permanent brain damage.

- **Viral haemorrhagic fever**
  Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF) is an extremely infectious and life threatening disease caused by a group of viruses, including the Ebola virus.

- **Warts**
  Warts can be stubborn, so you may need to use more than one type of treatment.

- **West Nile virus**
  All disease-carrying mosquitoes breed in water or require water to enable eggs to hatch.

- **Whooping cough**
  The major symptom of whooping cough is a severe cough, which is often followed by a 'whooping' sound.

- **Williams syndrome**
  Williams syndrome often goes undiagnosed, which means that some people with the disorder fail to get the support and treatment they need until later in life.

- **Zika virus**
  Zika virus is a mosquito-borne virus. There is no cure, specific treatment or vaccine for Zika virus.

### Related Information

- **Bird flu (avian influenza)**
  The symptoms of bird flu in humans are similar to those of regular influenza.

- **Flu (influenza)**
  Influenza (the flu) is caused by a virus. The flu is more than just a bad cold and can occasionally lead to serious complications, including death. Specific antiviral medication is available. It is...

- **Body mass index calculator for children and teenagers**
  This calculator measures body mass index (BMI), which is a measure of body fat. It is only an approximate measure of the best weight for your health. The calculator can be used for anyone from two to...

- **Barmah Forest virus disease**
  Barmah Forest virus (BFV) disease can cause joint inflammation and pain, fatigue and a rash of variable appearance. A full recovery can be expected. Most people recover completely within six months.

- **Murray Valley encephalitis**
  The only protection from Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) is to avoid mosquito bites.

### Home

### Related information on other websites

- Australian Government - Department of Health and Ageing
- University of Sydney and Westmead Hospital
- Victorian Government Health Information - Avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes
- Victorian Government Health Information - Mosquito-Borne disease
- Victorian Government Health Information - Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus - the facts

### Content Partner

This page has been produced in consultation with and approved by: Department of Health and Human Services - RHP&R - Health Protection - Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit

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