

Chikungunya Advisory for Parents

The Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines (PIDSP) reminds parents to be extra vigilant as chikungunya cases have recently increased in some parts of Samar. **Chikungunya is a viral infection that spreads by the bite of infected *Aedes* mosquitoes—the same mosquitoes that spread dengue.** It usually causes **sudden fever, severe joint pain, rash, headache, and muscle pain.** Most children recover completely, but joint pain may last for weeks.

How is it different from dengue?

- **Chikungunya:** Severe joint pain is more common and may persist after the fever resolves. Serious bleeding is not common in chikungunya.
- **Dengue:** Bleeding, severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, and shock can occur. These warning signs require **urgent medical attention.**
- Because the early symptoms can be similar, **every child with fever should be evaluated by a healthcare provider to rule out dengue.**

Reminders for Parents

- ☒ Prevent mosquito bites by using age-appropriate insect repellents, wearing long sleeves and pants, and using mosquito nets for infants.
- ☒ Eliminate mosquito breeding sites by removing standing water from containers, flower pots, tires, and other water-holding items around the home.
- ☒ Encourage your child to drink plenty of fluids and get adequate rest.
- ☒ **Do not give aspirin or ibuprofen until dengue has been ruled out.** Paracetamol (acetaminophen) is the preferred medicine for fever and pain, as advised by your healthcare provider.
- ☒ Seek medical consultation if your child develops **fever with rash or joint pain.**

 **Go to the nearest hospital immediately** if your child has:

- Persistent vomiting
- Severe abdominal pain
- Difficulty breathing
- Bleeding
- Extreme drowsiness or difficulty waking up
- Poor drinking or signs of dehydration

Protect your family. Prevent mosquito bites. Seek early medical care.

References:

1. World Health Organization. Chikungunya. Updated 2025.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Chikungunya Clinical Guidance.

3. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Factsheet for health professionals: Chikungunya.