What is Dengue?

Dengue is a viral illness spread through mosquito bites. Infants born to mothers who have ever had dengue are at higher risk of getting severe disease. If you live in or are traveling to an area with dengue, it only takes the bite of an infected mosquito for your infant, from 0 - 12 months old, to get sick with dengue. The best way to protect your infant is by protecting him or her from mosquito bites.

Symptoms: Your infant can’t tell you he or she is sick

Symptoms of dengue in an infant may be difficult to recognize, and are similar to other common childhood infections.

See the doctor immediately if your infant develops a fever with any of the following symptoms:

- Fever (38°C or 100.4°F, or higher)
  
or
- A low temperature (less than 36°C or 96.8°F) with any of the following:
  - Is irritable, fussy, overly agitated or sleepy
  - Has a rash
  - Unusual bleeding (gums, nose, bruising)
  - Vomiting (3 or more times in one day)
Caring for your sick baby at home

If a doctor tells you your baby has dengue:

- **Control the fever**: Give acetaminophen (paracetamol) and cool water sponge baths.
- **Give plenty of fluids**: This will prevent your baby from becoming dehydrated. Dehydration occurs when your baby loses too much water from fever, vomiting, or not eating or drinking.
- **Watch for signs of dehydration**:
  - Sunken soft spot (fontanel) on your infant’s head
  - Dry mouth, tongue, or lips
  - Sunken eyes
  - Few or no tears when your baby cries
  - Decreased urination (fewer wet diapers than usual)

**See the doctor immediately if your infant develops any signs of dehydration!**

Protect your infant from getting dengue. Prevent mosquitoes from biting her or him.

- **To find out if the country you live in or are visiting has dengue**, visit [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel).
- **If you live in or are traveling to an area with dengue**: Protect babies less than 2 months of age by covering the crib, stroller and infant carrier with mosquito netting.
- **Dress your baby in loose clothing that covers his or her arms and legs.**
- **Use insect repellent**
  - For babies over 2 months of age, use repellents with any of the following active ingredients: DEET up to 30% (for example OFF!, Cutter, Sawyer), picaridin (for example Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus, Autan), or IR3535 (for example Avon Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus Expedition, SkinSmart).* Always read and follow the directions on the product.
  - Adults should apply repellents to their own hands first, and then spread on the child’s exposed skin.
  - Products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children less than 3 years of age.
- **Empty any containers of standing water.**

*Insect repellent brand names are provided for your information only. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services cannot recommend or endorse any name brand products.

For more information visit:  [www.cdc.gov/dengue](http://www.cdc.gov/dengue)