

French Riviera sees new case of chikungunya virus

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French health authorities have asked doctors on the Riviera to be on the alert after a second case was detected in the region this weekend of the mosquito-borne chikungunya virus.

Two 12-year girls in the town of Frejus have caught the [virus](#) that causes fever, headaches and arthritic-type symptoms that leave victims stooped, officials said Sunday.

They noted that both cases were "native," meaning that the victims had not travelled to the parts of eastern Africa, southeast Asia or the Indian subcontinent where the virus is widespread.

The first ever "native" cases of dengue fever were detected in the French Riviera region earlier this month when two people were diagnosed with the disease that causes a flu-like illness for most victims but which can sometimes be deadly.

Dengue is carried by the same tiger mosquito that transmits the chikungunya virus. The insect has moved north in recent years.

There is no known vaccine or treatment for chikungunya, which has infected millions of people in Africa and Asia and can cause debilitating pain and, in extreme cases, death.

A region in Italy suffered an outbreak of chikungunya that hit 240 people over a two-month period.

An outbreak on the French Indian Ocean island of Reunion in 2005 infected a quarter of the population in less than two years, causing some 250 deaths.

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