



ASEAN BIOLOGICAL THREATS SURVEILLANCE CENTRE

DISEASE ALERT



August 11, 2025 | Issue No. 50

First alert : August 11, 2025 | Chikungunya in China

Sub-Locations Affected

Guangdong Province (Foshan City)

Event Description

On August 3, 2025, the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDC) issued a report on an outbreak of chikungunya fever in Foshan City, Guangdong Province, in July. On July 9, 2025, Foshan City, Guangdong Province reported a cluster of Chikungunya Fever (CF) cases which exceeded 4,000 cases by July 26. All reported cases were classified as mild, with no severe illness or deaths recorded.



Figure 1. Map of location affected (source: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/level2/chikungunya-china>)

Epidemiological Information

- On June 16, 2025, Foshan City recorded the earliest symptom onset among confirmed cases. Daily case counts peaked on July 19, with 681 cases reported. The median age was 44 years (range: 0–95 years), with adults aged 15–64 years made up the largest share of cases (3,229; 66.9%).
- On July 15, 2025, health authorities in the Shunde District (sub-division of a prefecture-level city) of Foshan City, Guangdong Province, issued a notice urging relevant departments and residents to implement concrete and practical measures to prevent and control the spread of CF, following an imported chikungunya fever case which raised the total to 478.

- As of mid-July 2025, Macao reported three imported cases of CF, two cases originated from Shunde District and one case from Nanhai District of Foshan City.
- Between July 15 and 20, 2025, Foshan City saw a sharp rise in CF cases, from 478 in Shunde District to 1,873 across Shunde (1,790), Nanai (34), and Chancheng (49). As of July 20, a total of 720 patients recovered. Authorities issued repeated advisories urging intensified mosquito control and prevention measures.
- On July 22, 2025, local health authorities reported that a total of 2,934 cases of CF had been recorded in Shunde District, Foshan City, Guangdong Province. Shunde remains the hardest-hit area, with most cases concentrated in the townships of Lecong, Beijiao, and Chencun.
- By July 26, a total of 4,824 confirmed cases had been recorded across 12 prefecture-level cities in the province, including 2,930 reported in a week from July 20 to 26 alone. Of these, 4,754 cases (98.5%) were in Foshan, while the remaining 70 cases (1.5%) were distributed among the other 11 prefectures. The Shunde District of Foshan was the most affected area, accounting for 4,208 cases—87.2% of all provincial cases.
- Between July 27 and August 2, 2025, the Guangdong Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported 2,892 new local cases of CF, a decrease of 48 cases compared to the previous week, indicating a slight decline in weekly case numbers.
- All cases were laboratory-confirmed using reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). Whole genome sequencing was conducted on 190 samples, and analysis revealed high genetic similarity among the viral strains, all of which were identified as belonging to the Central African Clade of the East-Central-South African (ECSA) genotype. According to the Guangdong Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention, imported cases of CF were detected for the first time in China in 2008 among overseas returnees.

Response Measures

- Authorities launched enhanced surveillance and case management, combining active detection with differential screening to distinguish dengue from chikungunya in symptomatic patients. Free nucleic acid screening for Chikungunya virus was conducted across Lecong township in Shunde district from July 29-31, 2025, to enable early detection, diagnosis, and treatment and to interrupt transmission chains amid high disease levels.
- Confirmed cases received targeted vector control within seven days, including insecticide-treated screens, bed nets, and residual repellents to block human-to-mosquito transmission.

- Community-wide vector control operations were carried out in affected areas. These included adulticide spraying and breeding site removal within at least a 100-meter radius of confirmed case residences, workplaces, and other frequented locations, supported by real-time vector surveillance using the Breteau and Area Density indices to guide interventions.
- China's top health authorities released an updated chikungunya fever diagnosis and treatment guideline on August 31, 2025, in response to ongoing outbreaks in South China, noting the disease's growing spread in tropical and subtropical regions worldwide.
- Thousands of *Gambusia affinis* mosquito-eating fish were released in Foshan parks to biologically reduce mosquito larvae density by over 60% within three months as an eco-friendly alternative to chemical control.
- On July 29, 2025, Foshan activated a Level III emergency public health response and launched special weeklong citywide mosquito eradication campaigns on July 31, 2025 to reduce mosquito populations and limit disease spread.

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