

Once the virion has found a host cell, the virion attaches itself to the cell. The cell becomes the host as new viruses are made within the cell. The new viruses multiply by using the cell's resources. Soon there are so many new virus particles that they burst out of the cell. Once outside, the new viruses start attacking other cells. In this way, the virus spreads throughout the host's body.

Just as viruses look for certain cells, they also look for certain hosts. Hosts are divided into three kingdoms—animal, plant, and bacteria. Many viruses infect the hosts of only one kingdom. The yellow fever virus infects the animal kingdom, which includes humans. The main hosts for the yellow fever virus are humans and primates, which include apes and monkeys.

The Yellow Fever Virus at Work

The yellow fever virus multiplies itself more quickly in areas of the world where the weather is warm. The most agreeable climate for the virus is that of the tropics. The tropics are located near the equator of the earth. In a tropical climate, warm temperatures occur throughout the year. The yellow fever virus



The yellow fever virus busily reproduces itself in the body of its animal host.

thrives in the favorable climates of South and Central America, and Africa.

Yellow fever is transmitted, or spread, to hosts by a vector. A vector is an insect or other organism that is infected with, carries, and spreads a disease. The main vector for yellow fever is the mosquito.

Mosquitoes

Since mosquitoes are most active in warm temperatures, they thrive in the tropics. In areas of the world where parts of the year are cold, mosquitoes cannot survive through the cold season. In the warm winter