



reacted to illness with fear and panic. Outbreaks of illnesses sent otherwise organized towns and cities into utter chaos. Many people who feared illness fled from areas of outbreak, leaving responsibilities, loved ones, and family members behind. Accurate death records were difficult to keep under such conditions.

Incubation and Immunity

Yellow fever is a dangerous and often deadly disease. There are conditions, however, that can and have limited the devastation brought about by yellow fever epidemics. Two major conditions are the incubation period of the virus and the ability of humans to become immune to the disease. Researchers believe that both of these conditions can also help us to understand where the yellow fever virus originally came from.

Incubation Period

An incubation period is the amount of time that it takes for a virus to develop within its host. During this time, no symptoms of illness occur. It is only after the incubation period that a host or vector becomes infectious. When a host becomes infectious, it means that the host now has the ability to pass the illness on to others.