The nature of Dengue Fever (DF) allows for periods of inactivity followed by sudden outbreaks. Since the 1970's, Asia, the Pacific Islands, East African countries, and the Americas have all experienced outbreaks. As of 2005, DF is one of the most extensive diseases affecting humans with an extent that is comparable to that of malaria. In the United States, one of the vectors, Ae aegypti, that transmits DF was eradicated during the program to eradicate yellow fever. This program was discontinued in 1970, but with changing climate and the high mobility of people, the vector may reemerge. While there is little transmission of DF in the contiguous United States, there is some risk of an outbreak, mainly from returning travelers of the tropical areas.

Material extracted from the CDC website. For more information see www.cdc.gov/dvbid/dengue/map-distribution-2003.htm