

# MALARIA IS A SERIOUS DISEASE



## Malaria Basics



Malaria is a serious disease caused by a parasite that infects a certain type of mosquito.



Usually, people get malaria by being bitten by an infective mosquito. Malaria is not spread from person-to-person like a cold or the flu, and it cannot be sexually transmitted.



The U.S. reports about 2,000 cases of malaria each year. Most of these cases are in people traveling to or from areas where malaria transmission occurs.



Overall, the risk of malaria in the U.S. is very low.

## Signs and Symptoms of Malaria



Symptoms of malaria include fever and flu-like illness, such as chills, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness. Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea may also occur. If not treated quickly, the infection can become severe.



If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, please see your healthcare provider immediately.

# Testing and Treatment



A healthcare provider can evaluate you and test for malaria if they are concerned.



Malaria can be cured with prescription drugs available in the U.S.



If left untreated or treatment is significantly delayed, malaria can be deadly.

## Prevention



Avoid areas with high mosquito activity, especially during the late evening and at night when the mosquitoes that spread malaria are more likely to bite.



Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents.



Wear loose-fitting, long-sleeved shirts and pants.



Keep windows and doors closed or covered with screens to keep mosquitoes out of your house.



Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios.



Empty standing water at least once a week to prevent mosquitos from laying eggs.



If you are traveling to an area outside of the US where malaria occurs, talk to your healthcare provider about malaria prevention medication.



There are two vaccines available to prevent malaria in children at risk in Africa— where the burden of malaria is greatest. However, the vaccines are not available for use in the U.S.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Learn more about malaria: [www.cdc.gov/parasites/malaria/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/malaria/index.html)

Learn more about how to prevent mosquito bites: [www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/mosquito-bites/prevent-mosquito-bites.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/mosquito-bites/prevent-mosquito-bites.html)

Learn more about how to control mosquitos inside and outside your home: [www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/mosquito-control/athome/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mosquitoes/mosquito-control/athome/index.html)



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