

Sample Press Release

Area Mosquitoes Responsible for ___ Cases of Malaria in _____

[City, State, Date] ----- In the last ___ days, [# #] of cases of malaria have been confirmed in (area). These cases were caused by local mosquitoes that became infected after biting someone who had become infected while visiting a malaria risk area. The mosquitoes then transmitted malaria to local residents.

Malaria can be serious, even fatal, but can be treated and cured once diagnosed. People with symptoms of malaria---fever, flu-like symptoms, including chills, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness---should seek medical attention. People without health providers can call the **[name of county health department]** at **[telephone number]**. People in the affected areas should do their best to protect themselves from mosquito bites.

- Avoid or limit outdoor activities between dusk and dawn.
- Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and socks outdoors between dusk and dawn.
- Use an insect repellent containing DEET on exposed skin.
- Close windows at night or install screens in windows and doors if left open at night.
- Sleep under a mosquito bed net if you do not live in a screened or air-conditioned house.

(Describe local efforts) The Mosquito Control Department is using insecticide to spray areas where malaria may have been spread to reduce the number of mosquitoes. People who notice an unusually high number of mosquitoes in their area should report the problem to Mosquito Control **[telephone number]**.

Says Dr. ----- of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “There is no need for panic, but it is important to avoid mosquito bites and see a health provider right away if you think you might have malaria. It’s treatable.” (or use quote from local authority)

Health providers evaluating patients with fever are encouraged to consider malaria as a potential diagnosis, regardless of the patient’s recent travel history. Health care providers needing assistance with diagnosis or treatment of suspected cases of malaria should call the CDC Malaria Hotline: 770-488-7788 (M-F, 8am-4:30 pm, Eastern Time). For emergency consultation after hours, call 770-488-7100 and request to speak with a CDC Malaria Branch clinician.

Malaria was eradicated in the United States in 1951 through a combination of methods, including water management, mosquito control, and disease treatment. Before that time, malaria had been present throughout the southeastern United States. However, because *Anopheles* mosquitoes, the species that can carry malaria, are seasonally present in all states except Hawaii, it is possible for malaria to be reintroduced. Between 1957 and 2003, 63 outbreaks of malaria transmitted by local mosquitoes have occurred in the United States.

For more information on malaria, see CDC's Web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/>.

For more information, reporters may contact **[Name]** at **[telephone number]**. (Note: make sure the contact person is available.)

Contact Information:

Contact Name and Title

Name of Health Department

Telephone Number

Fax Number

Email Address

Web site Address