

## Malaria

Malaria is spread when an infected *Anopheles* mosquito bites a person. This is the only type of mosquito that can spread malaria. The mosquito becomes infected by biting an infected person and drawing blood that contains the parasite. When that mosquito bites another person, that person becomes infected.

Malaria is a disease caused by a parasite that can be carried and transmitted by mosquitoes. Malaria is a serious and sometimes fatal illness. In the United States, there are typically about 2,000 cases of malaria diagnosed each year. Most of these cases occur in travelers or immigrants returning to the US from parts of the world where transmission more frequently occurs.

### Symptoms

Symptoms of malaria include fever and flu-like illness, including shaking chills, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness. Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea may also occur. Malaria may cause anemia and jaundice (yellow coloring of the skin and eyes) because of the loss of red blood cells. If not promptly treated, the infection can become severe and may cause kidney failure, seizures, mental confusion, coma, and death.

### Transmission

People get malaria by being bitten by an infected mosquito. Specifically, the *Anopheles freeborni* mosquito can carry *Plasmodium falciparum*, which is the most common of four malaria parasites known to infect humans (zoonotic malaria). Malaria is NOT transmitted person to person like a cold or the flu and is NOT sexually transmitted.

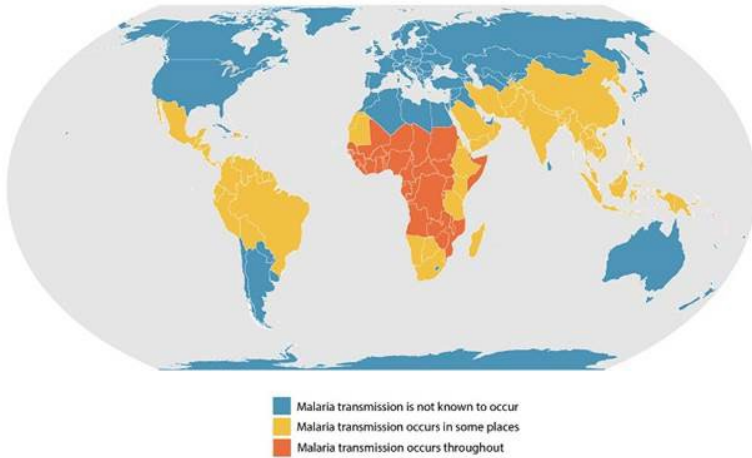
### *Anopheles freeborni* mosquito pumping blood



Source: *The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:*  
<https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/about/biology/#tabs-1-5>



## Where Malaria Occurs



This map shows an approximation of the parts of the world where malaria transmission occurs.

Source: *The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:*  
<https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/about/distribution.html>

## Recommendations for the Public

- Take steps to prevent mosquito bites and control mosquitos at home to protect yourself from any mosquito-borne illness.
- Before you travel, learn about the health risks and precautions for malaria and other diseases for your destination.
- If you are traveling internationally to an area where malaria occurs, talk to your healthcare provider about medicines to prevent you from getting malaria.
- If you have traveled to an area where malaria occurs and develop fever, chills, headache, body aches, and fatigue, seek medical care and tell your healthcare provider that you have traveled.

## For Providers

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a Health Advisory to raise awareness about cases of locally acquired malaria cases in Florida and Texas. Intravenous artesunate is the first-line treatment for severe malaria in the US.

- [CDC Treatment of Malaria: Guidelines for Clinicians \(United States\)](#)
- [CDC – DPDx – Diagnostic Procedures](#)
- [Malaria | CDC Yellow Book 2024](#)
- [CDC Malaria Information and Prophylaxis, by Country](#)
- [CDC – Parasites – Continuing Education – Malaria 101 for the Healthcare Provider](#)
- [CDC – Malaria – Travelers – Risk Assessment](#)

## Resources

[CDC Malaria](#)

[CDC Health Alert Network](#): Locally Acquired Malaria Cases Identified in the United States

