

Mosquitos are the carriers of the Malaria Virus. Humans can contract this disease through the bite of an infected mosquito.

**BUG
WEEK
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Mosquito-Borne Malaria

Malaria is a serious and sometimes fatal mosquito-borne illness caused by a parasite. There are five kinds of malaria parasites that infect humans:

- **Plasmodium falciparum**
- **Plasmodium knowlesi**
- **Plasmodium malariae**
- **Plasmodium ovale**
- **Plasmodium vivax**

There are nearly 1,700 cases of malaria diagnosed in the U.S. annually. Most are travelers and immigrants returning from trips to sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where malaria transmission is common.

How Malaria is Transmitted

Malaria is not contagious, but infected persons can transmit the disease via:

- **Blood transfusion**
- **Organ transplant**
- **Shared use of contaminated needles or syringes**

Malaria can also be transmitted to babies from their mother before or during delivery.

Signs & Symptoms

Most people experience symptoms 10 days to 4 weeks after infection, which include:

- **High fever**
- **Shaking chills**
- **Flu-like illness**

Prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent malaria. Before traveling:

Learn about destination-specific health risks and recommendations by visiting the CDC Traveler's Health website
<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>.

Schedule a visit with your health care provider to see if any antimalarial medications are recommended.

Donating Blood? Here's What You Need to Know!

Each donor is screened for risk of transmissible disease by questionnaire, and each unit of blood donated in the U.S. is routinely screened for various infectious disease pathogens using FDA approved assays.

Because no approved tests are available in the United States to screen donated blood for malaria, prevention of transfusion-transmitted malaria requires careful questioning of prospective donors.