

Malaria Summary Sheet



What do I need to know?

- Malaria is a preventable disease.
- High risk for all ages in highly endemic areas.
- Standard treatment is based on national guidelines because of growing resistance to antimalarials and different immunity levels of certain populations.
- 40% of the world's population is at risk for malaria.

What is the clinical case definition?

- Temperature above 38.5°C and absence of other infection.

When do I need to worry?

- When a non immune population migrates to a known malarious area.
- Overcrowding.
- Clinician reports of failure of antimalarials (treated patients return within 48 hours with fever)—likely indicating drug resistance.

How do I plan a prevention program?

- Individual protective measures include:
 - Insecticide treated nets
 - Repellents with at least 15% DEET
 - Protective clothing
 - Intermittent preventive therapy for pregnant women (IPT).
- Community protective measures include:
 - Avoid settlement near breeding sites.
 - Insecticide treated nets
 - Insecticide spraying of shelters
- Gather information on :
 - Information on pre and post migration and prior use of anti-malarials
 - Determine levels of transmission
 - Baseline efficacy data on anti-malarials
 - National malaria treatment guidelines

Surveillance

- When possible: blood smear tests by microscopy or use of rapid diagnostic test should be conducted for all cases.
- Confirm levels of parasitemia by use of microscopy or rapid diagnostic tests.
- Determine proportion of malaria related morbidity and mortality.
- Determine the length of time between presentation of fever and seeking care at health facility.
- Determine number of pregnant women receiving appropriate IPT.

How do I work with the community?

- Participatory implementation and management of preventive measures.
- Linking sectors of settlements to nearest health care facilities.

- Train the community to recognize fever and redirect patients to health care facilities in a timely manner.
- Respond appropriately if 15% of cases demonstrate failures.

This document was adapted from Médecins Sans Frontières: Refugee Health, an approach to emergency situations; and the World Health Organization, Fact Sheet No. 94, Malaria.