

MOSQUITOS & MALARIA ... WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



If you've been watching the news, you've probably heard about the recent cases of malaria being locally acquired in the U.S., something that hasn't occurred in 20 years. In the past two months, there has been a total of eight confirmed cases, seven in Sarasota County, Florida, and one in Texas. None of the patients had traveled outside the state, even though most cases in the U.S. are imported and occur in people traveling internationally. With travel expected to increase to pre-COVID-19 levels, below is information on mosquitos and malaria, and how to best protect yourself against transmission of mosquito-borne illnesses.

Malaria is a serious and sometimes fatal disease mainly transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. Learn more about [malaria](#). Malaria is a medical emergency and should be treated accordingly. Although the risk of locally acquired malaria is still extremely low in the U.S., other viruses like West Nile and dengue can be carried by mosquitos potentially making humans sick. Find out more about [mosquito-borne diseases](#).

In order to protect yourself and others from these diseases, it's important to take steps to prevent mosquito bites, find out more [here](#). You'll also find some useful suggestions below:

- Use EPA-approved insect repellent
- Wear loose-fitting long-sleeved shirts and pants
- Avoid being outside at dusk and dawn (peak feeding times)
- Repair holes in screens/Use a mosquito net when camping
- Drain standing water on your property

Although there are no vaccines or specific treatments for most mosquito-borne diseases, there are treatment options for malaria, find them [here](#). Should you experience any health concerns, contact your healthcare provider immediately.