

LETTER TO COMMUNITY: Malaria notification at beginning of outbreak to families *outside* of the community and/or area affected.

[Put Health Department logo here]

[Date]

[First, last name]

[Street Address]

[City, State, Zip]

Dear *[Last name]* Family,

Recently, there have been a number of cases of malaria in surrounding communities. Most cases of malaria have been reported in the following areas *[List areas]*. Although it is not directly affecting your community, malaria is a serious disease. Malaria is caused by a parasite and can cause fever, flu-like illness, including chills, headache, muscle aches, and tiredness. Loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea may also occur. Malaria cannot be passed from person to person. Humans get malaria from the bite of an infected *Anopheles* mosquito.

Most cases of malaria are found in people who travel to other countries where malaria is common. Although rare, individuals who do not travel overseas can be infected with malaria here in the United States. If you are or will be traveling in the areas listed above, you should take precautions to prevent being bitten by a mosquito. To prevent mosquito bites you and your family should:

- 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.

Malaria is diagnosed by looking for the parasites in the blood. People infected with malaria in the United States can generally be easily cured if treated promptly by their doctor. **If you or anyone in your family should experience any of the above listed symptoms, please contact *[Name]* Health Department at *[Phone number]* and your doctor.**

For additional malaria information visit the CDC Malaria Web site <http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/faq.htm> or call the toll free Fax information line at 1-888-232-3299.

Sincerely,