

[Name]

[Contact information]

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

[Put Health Department logo here]

[Date]

[First, last name]

[Street Address]

[City, State, Zip]

Dear [last name] Family,

Recently, there have been [Number of cases] cases of malaria within [Name of community]. This indicates that malaria has been recently transmitted in your community. Malaria is a serious disease 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. Therefore, to prevent malaria it is best to avoid mosquito bites. To do this 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 U.S. can be easily cured when treated 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,