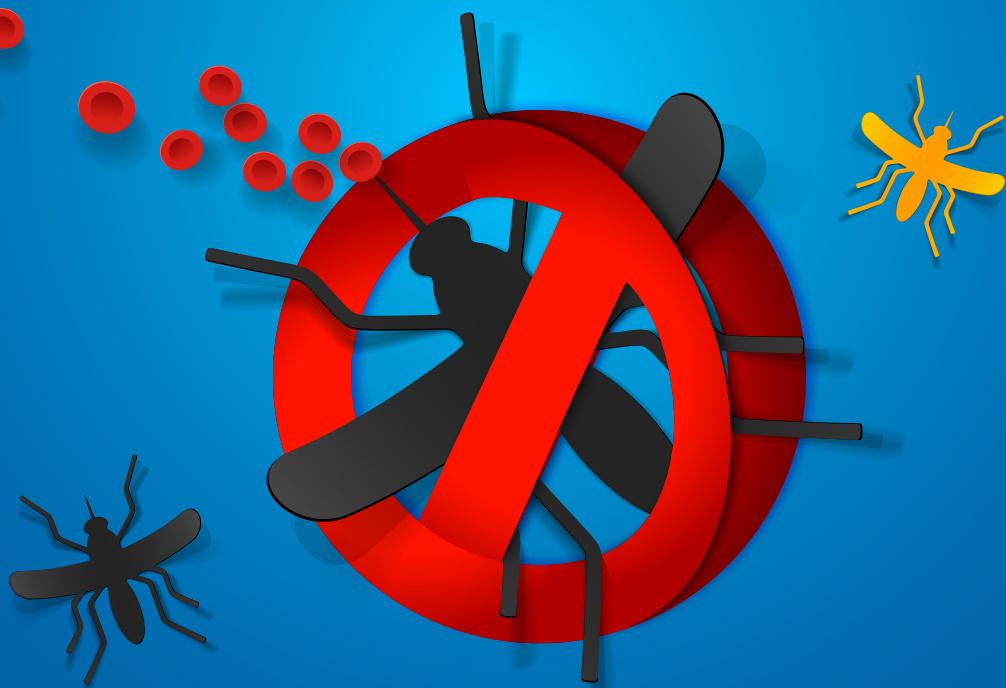


25TH APRIL 2026

WORLD MALARIA DAY



Celebrating
YEARS

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WORLD MALARIA DAY 25TH APRIL 2026 DRIVEN TO END MALARIA: NOW WE CAN. NOW WE MUST.

Today is World Malaria Day which is commemorated every year on April 25th to highlight the need for further action to reduce malaria deaths in our communities. Malaria is a life-threatening disease spread to humans by some types of mosquitoes, it affects us all, yet people still die from the disease. **Globally in 2024, there were an estimated 282 million malaria cases and 610 000 malaria deaths** in 80 countries according to WHO, yet it is preventable and curable. Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial to reduce transmission and prevent deaths, if you suspect you have malaria get tested and treated quickly.

Papua New Guinea continues to have high rates of malaria with an estimated 1.5 million cases reported each year. Simple ways we can reduce malaria transmission includes wearing repellents and long pants or sleeves in areas prone to mosquitos, putting screens on windows and doors and using mosquito nets to sleep.

“We all have a part to play in reducing malaria transmission, if you suspect you may have malaria get tested and get treated to reduce the spread in the community. Cover up when mosquitoes are most active and use mosquito nets when sleeping if possible” commented Sir Brian Bell Foundation CEO Bronwyn Wright.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION:

Science is advancing faster than ever. For the first time, ending malaria in our lifetime is a real possibility. New vaccines, treatments, malaria control tools and pioneering technologies including genetic modification of mosquitos and long-acting injectables – are in development. Already, 25 countries are rolling out malaria vaccines to protect 10 million children a year. Next-generation mosquito nets now make up 84% of all new nets distributed. Nationally led programmes are driving change. The possibility has never been greater. On World Malaria Day 2026, the World Health Organization joins partners to launch the campaign: “Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must.” This is a rallying cry to grasp the moment—to protect lives now and fund a malaria-free future.

FAST FACTS:

- 37 countries reported fewer than 1000 cases in 2024.
- 47 countries have been certified malaria-free.
- In 2024 there were 610,000 malaria deaths – a slight increase from 2023.

Learn more:

www.who.int/campaigns/world-malaria-day

WHAT IS MALARIA?

Malaria is a life-threatening but preventable and curable disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. There are 5 parasite species that cause malaria in humans, and 2 of these species – Plasmodium falciparum and Plasmodium vivax – pose the greatest threat. There were an estimated 282 million malaria cases and 610,000 malaria deaths in 80 countries globally in 2024 according to WHO. Personal protective measures such as long-sleeved clothing and using a quality insect repellent containing DEET are recommended during dusk and dawn when the important vector species of mosquito bite.

SYMPTOMS OF MALARIA.

Malaria is a curable disease when diagnosed and treated promptly. Malaria can be categorized as uncomplicated or severe (complicated). Symptoms usually appear 10-15 days after an infective mosquito bite and can be hard to recognise at first but can include fever, chills, and headache; however, if not promptly treated, more severe complications of Malaria can occur usually from the P. falciparum species of mosquito. Severe malaria is a medical emergency and should be treated urgently. If malaria is suspected, it is important to see a medical professional for a health evaluation as soon as possible.

MALARIA AND PREGNANCY.

Adults who have survived repeated malaria infections in their life may become partially immune to severe or fatal malaria. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advise that due to changes in a women’s immune system during pregnancy and the presence of a new organ (the placenta) with new places for

parasites to bind, pregnant women lose some of their immunity to malaria infection. Malaria infection during pregnancy can lead to maternal anaemia, low birth weight and foetal loss. If you are pregnant, discuss your malaria risk and protective measures with your doctor. If Malaria is suspected at any time, it is important to seek a health evaluation immediately.

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF MALARIA.

Malaria is a preventable and treatable disease, early diagnosis and treatment reduces malaria transmission in communities and prevents deaths. World Health Organisation recommends that all cases of suspected malaria be confirmed using parasite- based diagnostic testing (either microscopy or rapid diagnostic test) before treatment is provided. If you suspect you or a loved one have malaria it is important to see your doctor immediately as it may be life-threatening if not treated. If you are prescribed medication to treat malaria it is important to take any medications as advised.



PREVENTION OF MALARIA.

Follow these important measures to stop you and your family being bitten by mosquitoes:

- **Insecticide-treated mosquito nets:** Sleeping under an insecticide-treated net can reduce contact between mosquitoes and humans by providing both a physical barrier and an insecticidal effect. If high community coverage is achieved, the numbers of mosquitoes, as well as reducing the mosquito’s length of life. They are also cost-effective and have been shown to reduce malaria illness, severe disease, and death due in endemic regions.
- **Indoor spraying:** Indoor residual spraying (IRS) with insecticides 1-2 times per year is a powerful way to rapidly reduce malaria transmission. A high proportion of houses in the area must be sprayed (approx. 80%) in an area for IRS to be effective according to the CDC.
- **Antimalarial medications:** If your doctor has recommended you take anti-malaria medication, it is important to take only as advised and discuss any possible medication interactions prior to use. It is important to continue to use personal protective measures such as wearing long- sleeved pants and shirts is advised particularly between dusk and dawn when malaria-carrying mosquitoes are most active, as no antimalarial drug is 100% protective.
- **Cover up:** If spending lots of time outdoors, wear lighter coloured long-sleeved shirts and pants when possible.
- **Use an insect repellent containing DEET:** Apply insect repellent containing DEET on your skin regularly to repel insects, including mosquitoes. When used correctly, it is safe for older children, adults, and pregnant women. Always use on exposed skin (never on broken or irritated skin), never spray directly on your face (spray into hands and pat on your face), avoid contact with lips and eyes and wash your hands after applying.

MALARIA IS PREVENTABLE AND CURABLE.

Talk to your doctor.

