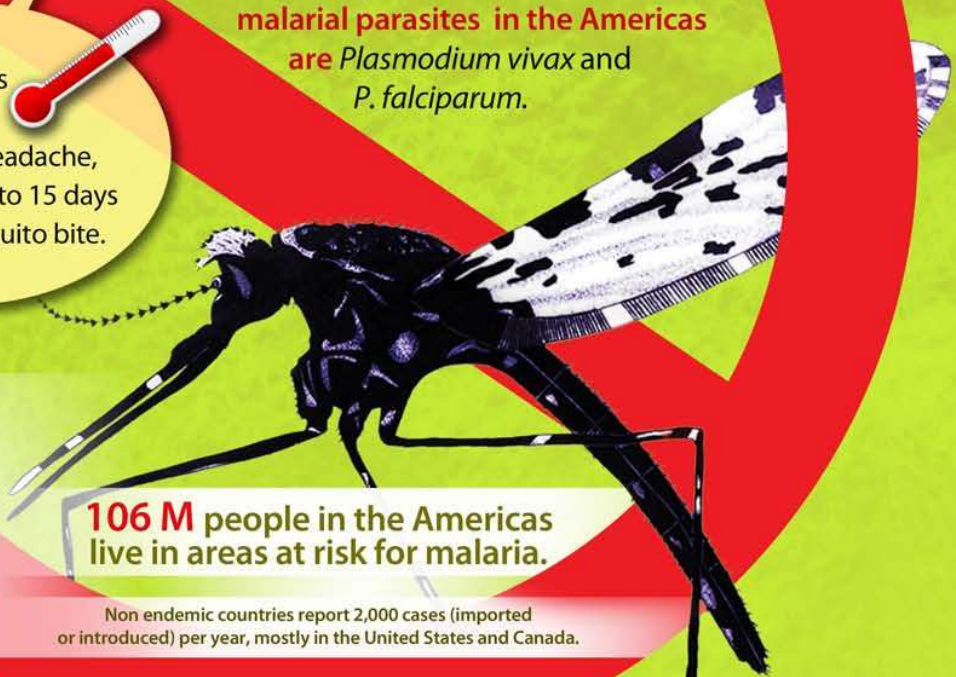


Malaria in the Americas



Malaria is a disease caused by the Plasmodium parasite, transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. **Most common malarial parasites in the Americas are *Plasmodium vivax* and *P. falciparum*.**

The symptoms include fever, vomiting and headache, and appear 10 to 15 days after the mosquito bite.



Prevention

Use of insecticide treated nets at home and indoor residual spraying of insecticides decrease exposure to bites of infected mosquitoes.



106 M people in the Americas live in areas at risk for malaria.

Non endemic countries report 2,000 cases (imported or introduced) per year, mostly in the United States and Canada.

Diagnosis

Blood slides are examined under a microscope to diagnose malaria. Rapid malaria diagnostic test kits (RDTs) can also be used in remote areas where microscopes are unavailable.



Treatment

Chloroquine and **Primaquine** are the treatment of choice for *P. vivax* and *P. falciparum* in countries where these parasites remain sensitive.

Artemisinin-based combination therapy is used as the primary treatment for *P. falciparum* in countries with resistance to chloroquine.

Approximately **70%** reduction in deaths and **60%** reduction in cases (2000–2011).

Strategy & Plan of action 2011-2015

- 75% reduction of malaria morbidity
- 25% reduction of malaria related deaths
- Malaria elimination in feasible areas
- Reverse the trend in countries where malaria cases have increased
- Prevent the reintroduction of malaria in countries already declared malaria-free.

PAHO Key Actions

- Malaria prevention, surveillance, early detection, and containment of outbreaks.
- Integrated vector management.
- Malaria diagnosis and treatment.
- Advocacy, communication, and partnerships.
- Health systems strengthening, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, operational research, and country-level capacity-building.