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Malaria (Plasmodium spp.) 1990 Case Definition | CDC  
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1990 Case Definition  
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1990 Case Definition  
NOTE:  
A surveillance case definition is a set of uniform criteria used to define a disease for public health surveillance. Surveillance case definitions enable public health officials to classify and count cases consistently across reporting jurisdictions. Surveillance case definitions are not intended to be used by healthcare providers for making a clinical diagnosis or determining how to meet an individual patient’s health needs.  
Clinical Description  
Signs and symptoms are variable, but chills followed by fever and sweating constitute the classic malaria paroxysm. The diagnosis should be considered for any person who has been exposed to infection. Complications such as cerebral malaria may occur in  
Plasmodium falciparum  
infection. Asymptomatic parasitemia may occur among immune persons.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Demonstration of malaria parasites in blood films  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A person's first attack of laboratory-confirmed malaria that occurs in the United States, regardless of whether the person has experienced previous attacks of malaria while outside the country  
Comments  
A subsequent attack experienced by the same person but caused by a different  
Plasmodium  
species is counted as an additional case. A repeated attack experienced by the same person and caused by the same species in the United States is not considered an additional case.  
Blood smears from doubtful cases should be referred to the National Malaria Repository, CDC, for confirmation of the diagnosis.  
In addition, cases are classified according to the following World Health Organization categories:  
Autochthonous  
:  
Indigenous  
: malaria acquired by mosquito transmission in an area where malaria is a regular occurrence  
Introduced  
: malaria acquired by mosquito transmission from an imported case in an area where malaria is not a regular occurrence  
Imported  
: malaria acquired outside a specific area (the United States and its territories)  
Induced  
: malaria acquired through artificial means (e.g., blood transfusion, common syringes, or malariotherapy)  
Relapsing  
: renewed manifestation (of clinical symptoms and/or parasitemia) of malarial infection that is separated from previous manifestations of the same infection by an interval greater than any interval due to the normal periodicity of the paroxysms  
Cryptic  
: an isolated case of malaria not associated with secondary cases, as determined by appropriate epidemiologic investigations  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Malaria (  
Plasmodium  
spp.) | 2014 Case Definition  
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National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
NNDSS receives and shares case data from state, local, and territorial health departments to help public health monitor, control, and prevent serious diseases.  
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