

The Florida Department of Health Issues Mosquito-Borne Illnesses Advisory

The Florida Department of Health (FLDOH) recently issued a statewide public health advisory regarding malaria. Confirmed local cases of this serious disease have been identified in Florida. Additionally, in a [bulletin](#) sent to providers last month, clinicians are asked to contact their county health department by the next business day if they suspect a patient has a mosquito-borne illness.

As shared in the FLDOH bulletin, **treatment** should be guided by the infecting malaria species, clinical status of the patient, drug susceptibility as determined by the geographic area where exposed, and previous use of antimalarials.

The advisory issued by the FLDOH includes details on clinical presentation, transmission, prevention, and laboratory testing for malaria. More information and several other educational resources on malaria are available at [FloridaHealth.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov).

Other Important Prevention Information for Patients

The public is asked to remain diligent with malaria prevention by following key tactics. These include using the appropriate type of mosquito repellent and wearing protective clothing (long sleeve shirts and long pants) to cover their skin in areas where mosquitoes may be present. It is also important to remember other “**Drain and Cover**” measures to keep mosquitoes from multiplying.

Drain and Cover

- **Drain** water from garbage cans, gutters, buckets, flowerpots, or any other containers where water has collected from sprinklers or rain.
- **Cover** windows and doors with screens. **Cover** baby strollers with netting.

Additional information and [guidelines for the treatment of malaria](#) is available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website.