

## Case Definition

### Confirmed Case:

Laboratory confirmation of infection with or without clinical evidence<sup>1</sup> of infection:

- Demonstration of *Plasmodium* sp. in a blood smear/film (thick and thin).

### Probable Case:

Laboratory confirmation of infection with or without clinical evidence<sup>1</sup> of infection:

- Detection of *Plasmodium* sp. antigen in an appropriate clinical specimen.

It should be noted:

- A case is counted if it is the individual's first attack of malaria in Canada, regardless of whether or not the person has experienced previous attacks of malaria outside the country.
- A subsequent attack in the same person caused by a different *Plasmodium* species is counted as an additional case.
- A repeat attack by the same species is not counted as a new case unless the person has traveled to a malaria-endemic area since the previous attack.

## Clinical Evidence

Signs and symptoms vary; however, most patients experience fever. In addition to fever, common associated symptoms include headache, back pain, chills, sweats, myalgia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and cough. Severe untreated malaria can lead to coma, seizures, renal failure, pulmonary edema and death.

## Reporting Requirements

Report confirmed and probable cases to DHW Surveillance via Panorama.

## Additional Forms

None.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Clinical Evidence section.