



Jeb Bush
Governor

John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A.
Secretary

**PRESS RELEASE 10-22-03
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: TIM O'CONNOR
561-355-3576, FAX 355-3038**

MALARIA CONCERNS REDUCED

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL---The Palm Beach County Health Department announced today that the malaria outbreak should be over. During the past three months eight people have acquired the disease locally. However, the county remains under an alert for other mosquito borne disease like West Nile Virus.

Health Department Director Jean Malecki, MD, said, "We have carefully evaluated the eight cases of locally acquired malaria. Science tells us that the onset of symptoms is generally from 7 to 30 days and the life span of an infected Anopholes mosquito is about two weeks. We have had no new cases since September 19 and I feel we may have reached the end of this outbreak."

Malecki added that people should continue to protect themselves from mosquito bites by wearing long sleeves and pants from dusk to dawn and using an insect repellent containing DEET according to the manufacturers recommendation.

There have been 20 small outbreaks of locally acquired mosquito transmitted malaria since 1970 when it was certified as eradicated in the United States. The most recent outbreak was the eight cases acquired this summer in the Lake Worth area of the county.

More



Commitment for the Healthiest Community in the Nation

Post Office Box 29 / 826 Evernia Street, West Palm Beach, FL 33402
Jean M. Malecki, M.D., MPH, FACPM, Director
www.pbchd.com



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Page 2 Malaria slows

Malaria is characterized by high fever, headache, loss of appetite, vomiting and teeth chattering chills. Transmission occurs when a mosquito bites a person carrying malaria and that mosquito passes it along to another individual. All eight cases this summer were the same strain called Plasmodium vivax and through molecular typing were confirmed to be from the same source.

The mosquito borne disease alert will be lifted when scientific evidence confirms that West Nile Virus is no longer present within the county and surrounding areas.

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