

Malaria Fact Sheet

What is Malaria?

Malaria is caused when someone is bitten by an infected female mosquito called the Anopheles. Female mosquitoes feed on blood because they need it for reproduction. Male mosquitoes feed on nectar. They bite mostly between dusk and dawn as they are night feeders.

Signs and Symptoms of Malaria

- Headache
- Fever
- Body ache
- Dizziness
- Sweating
- Tiredness
- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- In severe cases hallucination and coma

Malaria is very dangerous and upon onset of malaria signs and symptoms, people should rush to the nearest health facility within 24hrs. Now health facilities can quickly test for malaria within 20minutes using a rapid test tool. New and effective drugs have been introduced as the country is heading eliminating malaria in Swaziland. Elimination simply means no local malaria cases in Swaziland.

Malaria Prevention

There are primary prevention methods which are the most important and provided by the Ministry of Health to the affected communities:

- Sleeping inside an insecticide treated net every night
- Allowing your household to be sprayed
- Taking prevention tablets when travelling

There are secondary prevention methods which individuals can buy and use themselves:

- Mosquito coils
- Mosquito repellents
- Closing windows early wearing long sleeves
- Using window screens

