

There are approximately 1700 cases of malaria reported every year in the United States, virtually all of which are acquired in other countries. In 2016, Pennsylvania had 77 cases of malaria. Limited information is available about the emergence and spread of malaria drug resistance. To address this, CDC's malaria branch has strengthened the drug resistance surveillance program and has requested the submission of all Plasmodium-positive whole blood samples. The samples' drug resistance profiles and travel history together will be used to better understand the degree and patterns of resistance to various malaria drugs, which will improve prophylaxis recommendations to travelers as well as treatment guidelines. The BOL offers microscopic confirmation and speciation of Malaria, using electronic transmission of images to the CDC's parasitology group. CDC will determine if PCR testing is warranted for speciation of the samples.

1. Complete the PA Department of Health Specimen Submission Form.  
**(Please PRINT)**
  - a. Patient's name, date of birth and sex
  - b. Address and county of residence
  - c. Specimen collection date
2. In the "test requested" field fill in either "Identification" or "Surveillance only."
3. Reports are not issued for Surveillance only testing. Annual malaria data is published in the MMWR.
3. Complete the CDC 50.34 with the following required information:
  - a. Clinical diagnosis and any pertinent lab results
  - b. Travel history
  - c. Symptoms and treatment therapies
  - d. Any past diagnosis of malaria
4. Send 3-5 mL whole blood in lavender top tube (EDTA preservative).
5. Send blood stained slides that are positive for parasites.
6. Properly package the samples and paperwork, and ship as category B on a cold pack.
7. Ship samples Monday through Thursday.

Follow the same directions above for Babesia confirmations.

Other parasitology services are available through CDC, refer to [www.dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx/](http://www.dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx/). Images and a completed CDC 50.34 can be emailed directly to CDC.