

done. WHO continues to closely monitor and, if necessary, verify travel and trade measures in relation to this event. Travellers should seek medical advice before travel and should practice good hygiene.

As of 25 February 2020, there are no EVD cases reported in South Africa associated with the current outbreak in

the DRC. In addition, there are no suspected cases of EVD in South Africa at present. Surveillance amongst returned travellers is ongoing.

**Article source:** WHO: [www.who.int](http://www.who.int); WHO-AFRO, Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response, NICD-NHLS; [outbreak@nicd.ac.za](mailto:outbreak@nicd.ac.za)

## SEASONAL DISEASES

### Malaria notification data, January 2020

A total of 1 086 malaria cases was notified through the NMCSS for the month January 2020. Of these cases, 243 were excluded from the analysis, either due to missing data or being identified as duplicate reports. Among the 843 cases further analysed, 60% (506/843) were reported in non-endemic districts, with Gauteng Province (304/506) accounting for the majority of these cases. Males (62%, 523/843), predominately between the ages of 20 and 40 years, were the most affected by malaria in both the endemic and non-endemic districts. During the current reporting period, 66 cases of malaria in children under the age of five were notified, with 64% (42/66) of these cases coming from non-endemic districts, predominately in Gauteng Province. Microscopic examination of blood smears was the main method of diagnosis (86%, 727/843) in both the endemic and non-endemic districts. Of the 96 cases of severe malaria reported, 18 were treated with quinine rather than the recommended intravenous (IV) artesunate. The vast majority of these health facilities

(89%, 16/18) still treating with quinine are located within non-endemic districts. Importation of malaria from other malaria endemic countries, particularly Mozambique, remains a major challenge to South Africa's control and elimination efforts. There was a marked decrease in the number of malaria cases reported through the NMCSS in both the endemic and non-endemic districts for January 2020 compared to January 2019, when 1 979 cases were notified.

**Important:** Note that these data do not reflect the country's total burden of malaria disease, as most malaria-endemic districts are currently using alternative malaria case record systems, such as the District Health Information System 2 (DHIS2).

**Article source:** Centre for Emerging Zoonotic and Parasitic Diseases and the Notifiable Medical Conditions Surveillance System, NICD-NHLS; [johnf@nicd.ac.za](mailto:johnf@nicd.ac.za)