

c Malaria: update on elimination campaign

The Malaria Control Programme of the National Department of Health indicates that 255 malaria cases with a single fatality were reported in September 2016, compared with 415 cases and 4 deaths in the same time period 2015. Amongst these 255 cases, 225 (88%) were imported, 17 (6%) cases were locally acquired and the remaining cases were unclassified. During the same time period in 2015, 134 cases (32%) were locally acquired. The distribution of locally acquired vs imported cases is shown in Figure 3.

These data bode well for South Africa's commitment to halting local malaria transmission within its borders by 2018. Cellular phone-based reporting of malaria cases (MalariaConnect), implemented over the recent malaria season has contributed to the objectives of the elimination strategy – namely, to strengthen passive and active surveillance, improve capacity to coordinate and implement malaria interventions, appropriately educate the population

about malaria, and reduce the human malaria parasite reservoir. The mainstay of malaria control continues to be indoor residual insecticide spraying to reduce mosquito vector density in transmission areas, while larviciding is conducted in some breeding sites.

With the anticipated rainy season, it is likely that the number of cases will increase. Travellers to malaria-endemic areas are advised to take chemoprophylaxis and implement measures to prevent mosquito bites (such as application of DEET-containing mosquito repellent, covering skin at dawn and dusk and sleeping under insecticide-impregnated bed nets).

Source: Centre for Opportunistic, Tropical, and Hospital Infections, NICD-NHLS; Malaria Control Programme, National Department of Health (johnf@nicd.ac.za)

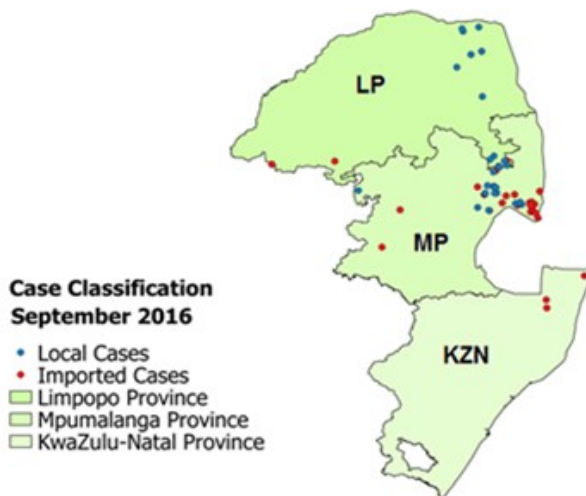


Figure 3. Distribution of imported (red dots) and local (blue dots) of malaria cases in three RSA provinces in September 2016. Cases are geolocated based upon the place of notification. Only cases that have been notified from a facility with known coordinates are included. (LP=Limpopo Province; MP=Mpumalanga Province; KZN=KwaZulu-Natal Province)