



health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Date: 24 May 2017**

### **Malaria outbreak in Limpopo and Mpumalanga**

Following the malaria outbreaks in Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces, there has been daily monitoring of the developments through the district outbreak response meetings. However, the overall number of reported malaria cases has declined in the provinces of Mpumalanga and Limpopo over the past two weeks.

There have been a high number of malaria cases in South Africa in the 2016/17 season, compared to the previous season. This has been attributed to the rise in ambient temperature, rainfall and humidity. The outbreaks were reported in Mopani and Vhembe districts (Limpopo) and in the Bushbuckridge subdistrict of Mpumalanga in early May 2017. Please note that the Kruger National Park is a known malaria risk area, and travelers to malaria transmission areas in South Africa (see malaria risk map ), as well as to the neighbouring countries, are advised to take precautions against malaria.

Any residents or travelers from both low and high malaria risk areas in South Africa (see map) presenting with fever and flu-like symptoms are strongly advised to attend a healthcare facility or see their doctor for a malaria test, even if chemoprophylaxis was taken. A negative malaria test must be treated cautiously and repeated. Any person with a travel history to a malaria risk area who presents with fever and flu-like symptoms is unlikely to have influenza at this time since it is very early in the 2017 influenza season.

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**MALARIA RISK MAP FOR SOUTH AFRICA 2013**

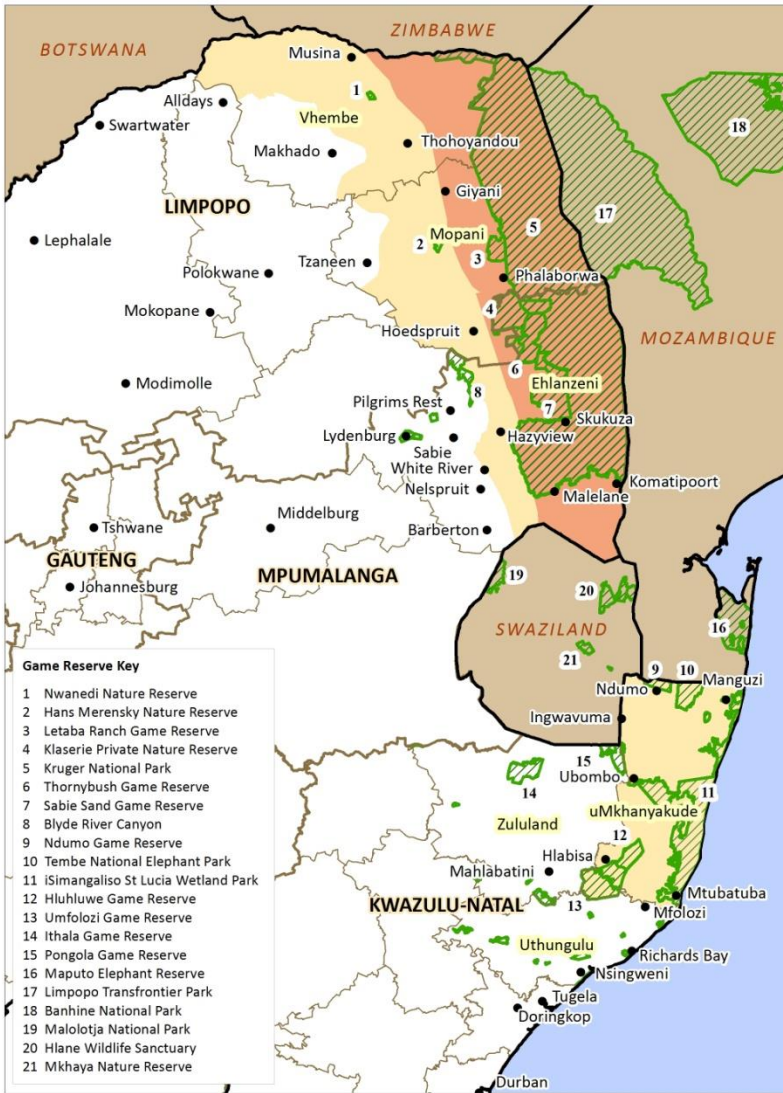
To significantly reduce your risk, take precautionary measures against mosquito bites throughout the year in ALL RISK areas. Where malaria chemoprophylaxis is indicated, mefloquine or atovaquone-proguanil or doxycycline should be used.

- Low Risk**  
Only non-drug measures to prevent mosquito bites are recommended
- Moderate Risk**  
Antimalarial drugs are recommended from September to May for all travellers
- Malaria risk does exist in neighbouring countries** For further information, please consult the WHO travel health guidelines at <http://www.who.int/ith/en/>

- Town
- ▭ Province
- ▨ Reserve
- ▭ District



Map produced by the Health GIS Centre, Malaria Research Unit, South African Medical Research Council  
Data Sources: Malaria Control Programmes of KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Mpumalanga, South African Medical Research Council, Statistics South Africa, Municipal Demarcation Board



- Game Reserve Key**
- 1 Nwanedi Nature Reserve
  - 2 Hans Merensky Nature Reserve
  - 3 Letaba Ranch Game Reserve
  - 4 Klaserie Private Nature Reserve
  - 5 Kruger National Park
  - 6 Thornybush Game Reserve
  - 7 Sabie Sand Game Reserve
  - 8 Blyde River Canyon
  - 9 Ndumo Game Reserve
  - 10 Tembe National Elephant Park
  - 11 iSimangaliso St Lucia Wetland Park
  - 12 Hluhluwe Game Reserve
  - 13 Umfolozi Game Reserve
  - 14 Ithala Game Reserve
  - 15 Pongola Game Reserve
  - 16 Maputo Elephant Reserve
  - 17 Limpopo Transfrontier Park
  - 18 Banhine National Park
  - 19 Malolotja National Park
  - 20 Hlane Wildlife Sanctuary
  - 21 Mkhaya Nature Reserve