

Prophylaxis information for Plasmodium species/Malaria (P. falciparum, P. vivax, P. ovale, P. malariae):

Prophylactic antimalarial medication is available but no prophylactic regimen gives complete protection. Safety practices to avoid exposure are the primary prevention method. Immediate reporting of suspected exposures is important to initiate prompt evaluation and treatment, if needed.

The BioSafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL) guidance document emphasizes preventive safety practices, training, and personal protective equipment to minimize risk of exposure. The BMBL does not include any reference regarding malaria prophylaxis for laboratory workers working with Plasmodium spp. In 2009, the CDC, Malaria Branch, Division of Parasitic Disease reported no routine malaria prophylaxis was recommended for their researchers working with Plasmodium spp. and suggested it would not be recommended unless a history of lab-acquired infections indicated a breakdown in safety practices.

Malaria prophylaxis is generally only indicated for researchers traveling to areas where malaria is present, not for the laboratory research setting. Research staff interested in receiving medical consultation regarding prophylactic antimalarial medication should contact the EHS/Occupational Health Nurse at 858-534-8225 or UCSD Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine (Hillcrest: 619-471-9210; La Jolla: 858-657-1600).

Information about malaria prophylaxis for travelers is available on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: <http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/travelers/index.html>

Website for clinicians treating malaria:

http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/diagnosis_treatment/treatment.html