



# TRAVEL HEALTH Newsletter



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## Up-to-date travel health by Bavarian Nordic

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Bavarian Nordic presents this newsletter as an up-to-date resource in travel health. Each quarter, we provide you with the latest information on key topics, such as publications, notable facts, disease maps, and upcoming conferences.

Your feedback is of the utmost value, and we encourage you to share your thoughts to improve the content in future issues.

### WHAT IS NEW IN TRAVEL HEALTH?

Latest publications and notable facts on rabies, typhoid, cholera, and chikungunya.



### TYPHOID WEBINAR

Don't miss Travel Health Expert's Typhoid webinar replay with Dr. Stephen Baker and Dr. Cristina Masuet, [here](#).

### SYMPOSIA ON CHIKUNGUNYA

Discover Bavarian Nordic's recent symposia at ECTMIH and ASTMH.

The latest  
health  
alerts  
for HCPs





# Did you know?.....



## CHIKUNGUNYA

Cuba is currently facing a large outbreak of chikungunya, with first cases reported in July 2025. All provinces are affected, and more than 38,000 cases have been reported as of November 29, 2025.<sup>1,2</sup>

In 2025, several countries had a reoccurrence or first onset of locally acquired chikungunya cases, including France (788 cases), Italy (384 cases), and Guangdong in China (16,452 cases as of September 27, 2025).<sup>3,4</sup> Also, the US had its first confirmed autochthonous case since 2015, in the State of New York.<sup>5,6</sup>

As of November 13, 2025, 458,840 cases of chikungunya and 146 related deaths have been reported globally in 2025. The number of cases has increased compared with the same period in 2024. Most of the affected countries are in the Americas (266,165 cases) and Asia (136,233 cases).<sup>1</sup>

## TYPHOID

Extensively drug-resistant strains of *Salmonella Typhi*, particularly an emerging strain called REPJPP01, continue to be reported, mostly among travelers returning from Pakistan.<sup>7</sup>



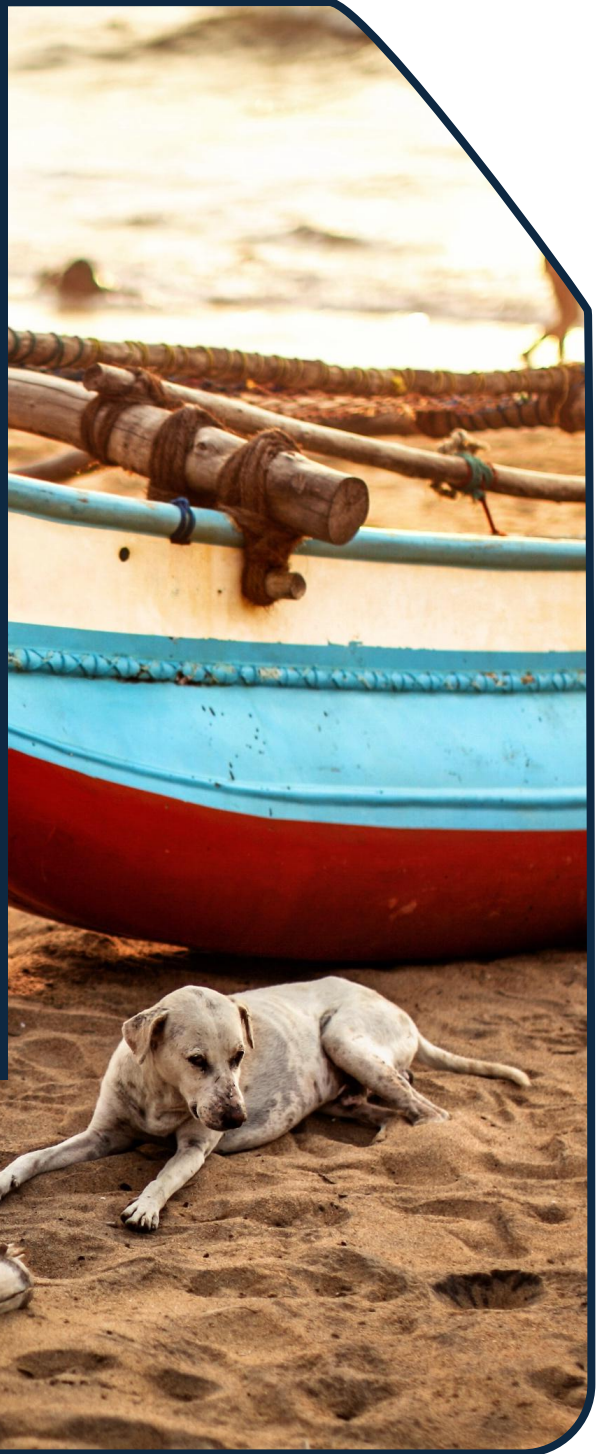


# Did you know?.....

## RABIES

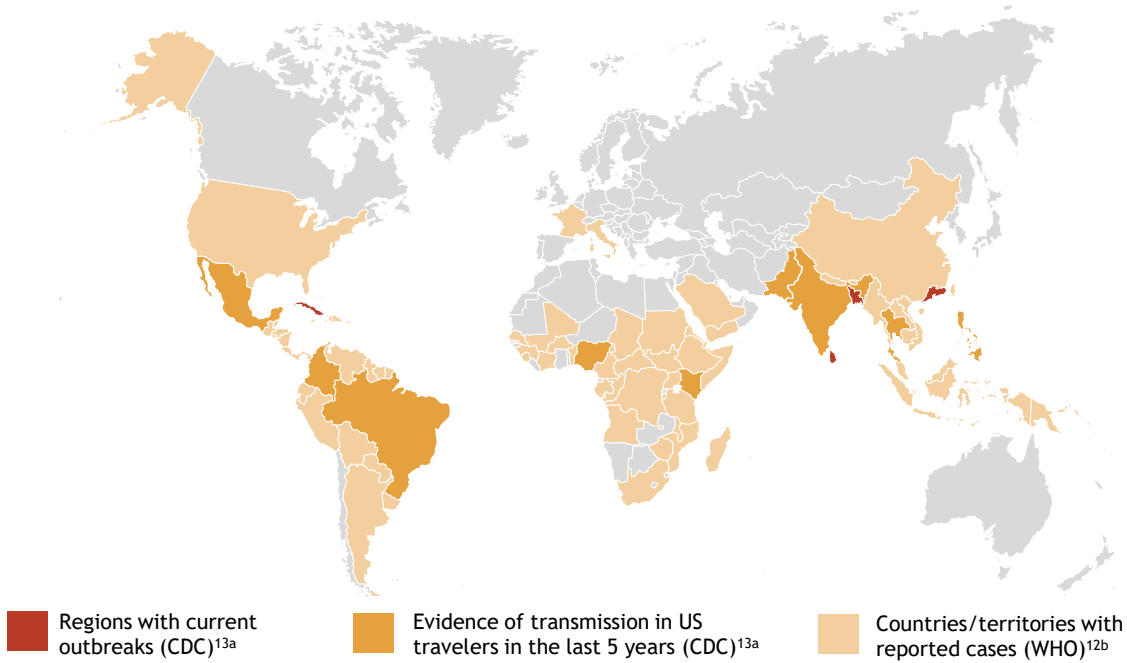
Falsified rabies vaccines have recently been identified in India and Zimbabwe,<sup>8,9</sup> highlighting the critical need for travelers to obtain pre-exposure prophylaxis (PreP) from authorized providers in their home country. Using authentic vaccines before travel is essential, as counterfeit products can compromise disease prevention efforts, reduce vaccination coverage, and diminish public confidence in immunization programs.<sup>10</sup>

Additionally, a locally acquired case of rabies has been reported in Romania<sup>11</sup> (see the publication summary on page 7 for further details). This underscores the importance of securing PreP prior to travel, rather than relying solely on post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) which may not be readily accessible or reliable in some destination countries. Healthcare professionals should emphasize to travelers the value of appropriate vaccination before departure to ensure optimal protection against rabies.

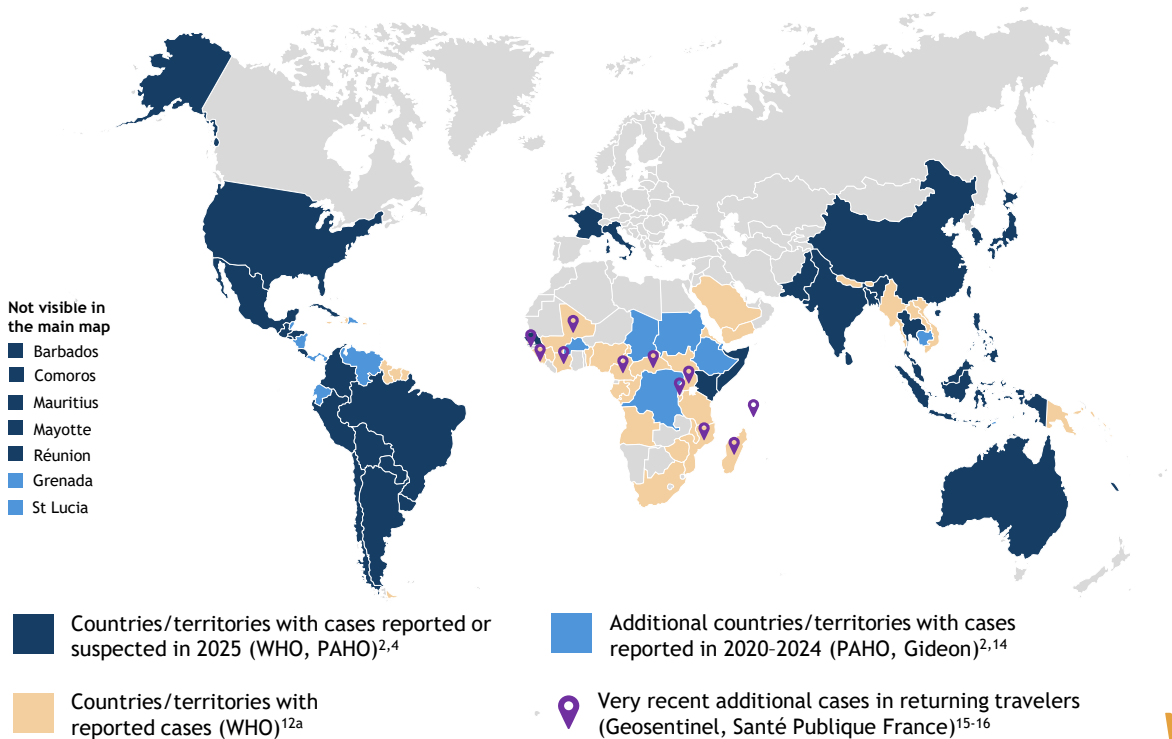




# Chikungunya has been reported in 119 countries and territories;<sup>12</sup> some are CDC-listed as having current outbreaks or as high-risk areas<sup>13</sup>



## Additional case reports and data from returning travelers reveal wider geographic impact



<sup>a</sup>As of December 15, 2025.

<sup>b</sup>Based on countries with current or previous transmission of chikungunya virus reported by the WHO as of December 2024.



## High-risk countries for importing dog rabies<sup>17</sup>



Based on data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. High-risk countries for dog rabies. May 31, 2024. Accessed December 1, 2025.

For the latest country-specific rabies classifications, the CDC Rabies Country Data portal provides continuously updated risk assessments to support pre-travel counseling and vaccination decisions. Access the most recent information [here](#).





# Publications

## *Aedes*-borne arboviruses and chikungunya:



Climate change models project that the distribution of *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes will expand across the Northern Hemisphere, particularly in Europe, the United States, and Asia. *Ae. albopictus* is expected to extend into cooler regions, while suitable habitats in the Southern Hemisphere may shrink. This anticipated expansion underscores the need for enhanced surveillance and public health preparedness.<sup>21</sup>



It is estimated that chikungunya threatens 2.8 billion people in 104 countries, causing about 35 million infections and 3,700 deaths annually, mainly in Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Vaccinating half of those over 12 in affected regions could avert around 4,436 cases, 0.34 deaths, and 37 disability-adjusted life years per 100,000 doses, assuming 70% efficacy against disease and 40% protection from infection.<sup>22</sup>



An analysis of 86 chikungunya outbreaks found that severity is only partly explained by climate and basic reproduction number  $R_0$ , with other factors like population structure, transmission distance, and randomness playing significant roles.<sup>23</sup> Chikungunya outbreaks, which are often explosive, remain unpredictable and prevention through mosquito bite avoidance, as well as vaccination when indicated, remains key for travellers.<sup>23,24</sup>



# Publications

## ***Rabies:***



A fatal case of locally acquired human rabies was reported in Romania in July 2025, raising public health concerns across the EU/EEA. HCP's are urged to stay alert, reinforce rabies awareness, and ensure rapid diagnosis and access to post-exposure prophylaxis in travel destination countries.<sup>11</sup>

## ***Typhoid:***



A 15-year review at a Romanian hospital found 13 typhoid fever cases, all from highly endemic regions (Sub-Saharan Africa, India and Indonesia). Resistance to ciprofloxacin was found in nearly every case and multi-drug resistance was discovered in several samples. None of the patients had been vaccinated against typhoid or received pre-travel medical advice. Prompt pre-travel advice and vaccination can both help prevent typhoid, including drug-resistant strains, and reduce delays in seeking medical care.<sup>25</sup>

## ***Cholera:***



Between 2005 and 2024, US CDC port health stations received 37 reports of suspected or confirmed cholera in travelers—95% of which involved individuals arriving by air. Half of lab-confirmed cases tested positive for toxigenic *Vibrio cholerae*, and nearly all were hospitalized. Taking detailed travel histories in patients with acute watery diarrhea is vital for early detection and control of imported cholera.<sup>26</sup>

# Upcoming conferences in the next quarter



- **National Conference on Wilderness Medicine**  
Big Sky Ski Resort, MT, February 21-25, 2026. [More info here](#)
- **SYNC 2026 (HealthHIV, HealthHCV, and the National Coalition for LGBTQ Health)**  
Washington, DC, March 18-20, 2026. [More info here](#)
- **World Vaccine Congress 2026**  
Washington, DC, March 31- April 2, 2026. [More info here](#)  
Don't miss our presentation about mpox prevention: *An Overview of Clinical Experience and Real-World Use* - Alejandra Hermosilla Goncalves - Wednesday, April 1st, 12:40-1 pm.

## Recent sponsored symposia - Recordings available

### Chikungunya in focus: risks and prevention for travelers

At the symposium held at the European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH), Hamburg, Germany, Prof. Jonas Schmidt-Chanasit and Prof. Tomas Jelinek discussed chikungunya with a focus on risks and prevention for travelers. Access symposium recording [link](#).

#### The symposium addressed:

- The risk posed by chikungunya to travelers in terms of geographic scope and of disease severity
- Data on CHIKV vaccines
- Current recommendations for the use of CHIKV vaccines



### Outbreaks without headlines: surveillance, reporting and vaccination

Symposium at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH), Toronto, Canada. View symposium [here](#). Password: BN@ASTMH25

#### The sessions included:

- 'Surveillance limitations and emerging patterns' presented by Dr. Kamran Khan (video time: 06:50)
- 'Improving chikungunya detection and reporting across borders' led by Dr. Neelika Malavige (video time: 30:30)
- 'Treatment and prevention of chikungunya' delivered by Dr. Marta Díaz Menéndez (video time: 51:00)

## Regional and National Conferences:

15-20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026: Infectious Diseases in Clinical Practice (UCSF), Kauia, HI

21-25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026: National Conference on Wilderness, Big Sky, MT

27-30<sup>th</sup> Mar 2026: American Pharmacists Association, Los Angeles, CA

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