

# TRAVEL HEALTH

## Newsletter



Issue No. 1

April - June 2026

Volume 2



## 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. The current issue contains data from January to April 2026.

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, mpox, and chikungunya.

See page 8



### AANP meeting

Las Vegas, NV, June 23-27

### NMPHA Meeting

Albuquerque, NM, July 24-26

### Wilderness Medicine

Big Sky, MT, July 25-29

### Kick the Flu

San Diego, CA, Sep 2

The latest  
travel  
health  
information  
for HCPs



Disclaimer: Pictures have been obtained with permission or have been AI-generated.

HCP, Healthcare professional; NECTM10, Northern European Conference on Travel Medicine 10<sup>th</sup> Edition;

UK, United Kingdom

ACHA - American College Health Association

# Did you know? .....

## CHIKUNGUNYA

- Between January 1 and December 10, 2025, a total of **502,264 global cases of CHIKV** were reported, including 208,335 confirmed cases and 186 deaths. There is a **substantial risk of geographic expansion** due to potential introduction by infected travelers, suitable mosquito vectors, susceptible populations, and favorable conditions.<sup>1</sup>



*Aedes aegypti*  
mosquito

- Between late 2025 and the beginning of 2026, the **Americas Region has experienced a continued rise in chikungunya cases**, accompanied by the re-emergence of local transmission in areas that had not detected virus circulation for several years, e.g. Guyana and Suriname.<sup>2</sup>

## RABIES

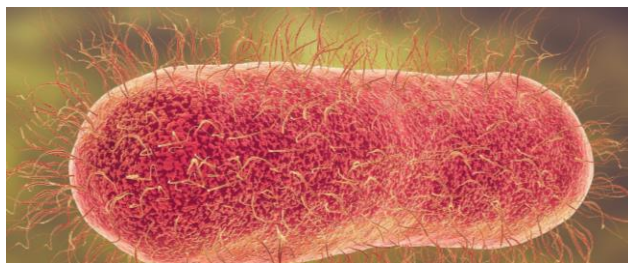
- In December 2025, the **CDC revised its Travel Health Notices**, keeping **Level 1 warnings for India and Morocco** due to continuing rabies risks<sup>3</sup>.
- Furthermore, in light of counterfeit rabies vaccines found in India, the CDC advises travelers to **obtain their vaccinations in the United States** prior to traveling.<sup>4</sup>
- In the **United States**, two individuals and multiple dogs are receiving treatment for rabies following an attack by a rabid bobcat<sup>5</sup>:
  - New Mexico reported its first rabies case of 2026 involving a bobcat that attacked several dogs in Sierra County.
  - Two people potentially exposed to the animal are undergoing post-exposure rabies vaccinations.



## Did you know? .....

### TYPHOID

- Tonga, an archipelago of 170 islands, is a South Pacific tourist spot, often called a "hidden gem" compared to Fiji or Samoa.
- In early February 2026, a **typhoid fever cluster appeared in Hofoa**, Tongatapu, Tonga, with at least three confirmed cases in two households, resulting in 43 contacts being monitored.
- In order to control the outbreak, the Tonga Ministry of Health has imposed a 60-day ban on food gatherings and kava (drinking) events in the village, lasting until the end of March 2026<sup>6</sup>.



#### ADVICE FOR TRAVELLERS TO AVOID FOOD AND WATERBORNE DISEASES:

Travel to certain international destinations - particularly areas with limited access to safe water, poor sanitation, and low hygiene scores- can increase the risk of infections that can cause diarrhea or vomiting.<sup>7</sup>



*Part of the Tonga archipelago*

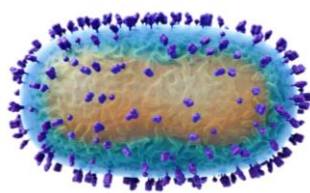
# Did you know? .....

## MPOX

- The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed two cases of a **novel mpox strain** that contains **genetic material from two established virus clades** (clade Ib and clade IIb). These cases were reported in the United Kingdom (detected December 2025 in someone returning from Southeast Asia) and India (case with symptoms in September 2025 initially mistaken for clade II). Genomic sequencing shows both cases involved a recombinant virus, indicating the virus can evolve via recombination when multiple strains infect the same person.
- No severe outcomes or secondary transmissions have been reported so far, and WHO says **overall public health risk** remains **moderate** only in certain groups (e.g., men who have sex with men with multiple partners) **and low for the general population** without specific risk factors<sup>8</sup>.

### Key takeaway:

This recombinant strain highlights the ongoing evolution of mpox viruses in the global context, reinforcing the need for continued genomic surveillance and diagnostic vigilance in travel medicine.



Mpox virus

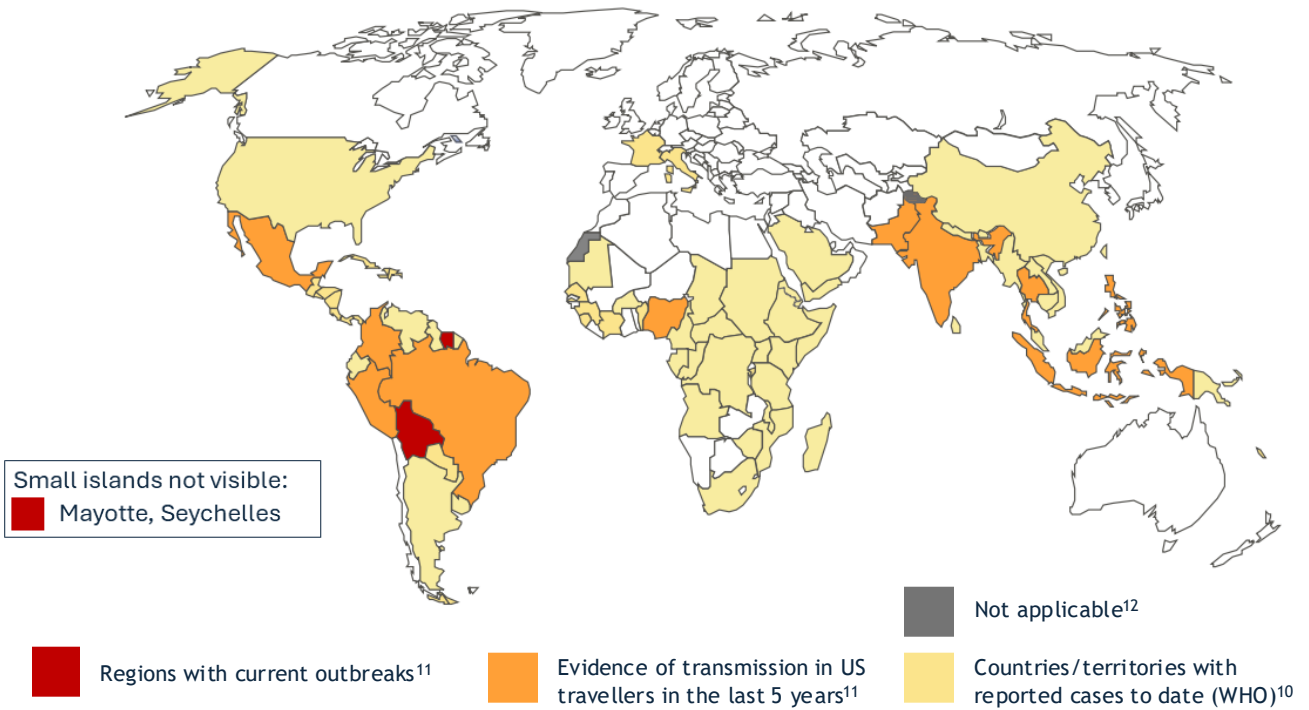
- The CDC has issued a *Level 2 - Practice Enhanced Precautions* travel notice for mpox (clade II) in Ghana and Liberia. Travelers to these countries are advised to **practice enhanced precautions**, especially if planning activities that could increase risk of exposure and consider vaccination if eligible before travel, especially for certain sexual behaviors or close contact. In Liberia specifically, authorities reported 1,451 confirmed cases and six deaths in 2025, with a small number continuing into early 2026 – prompting the Level 2 traveller health notice<sup>9</sup>.

### Key takeaway:

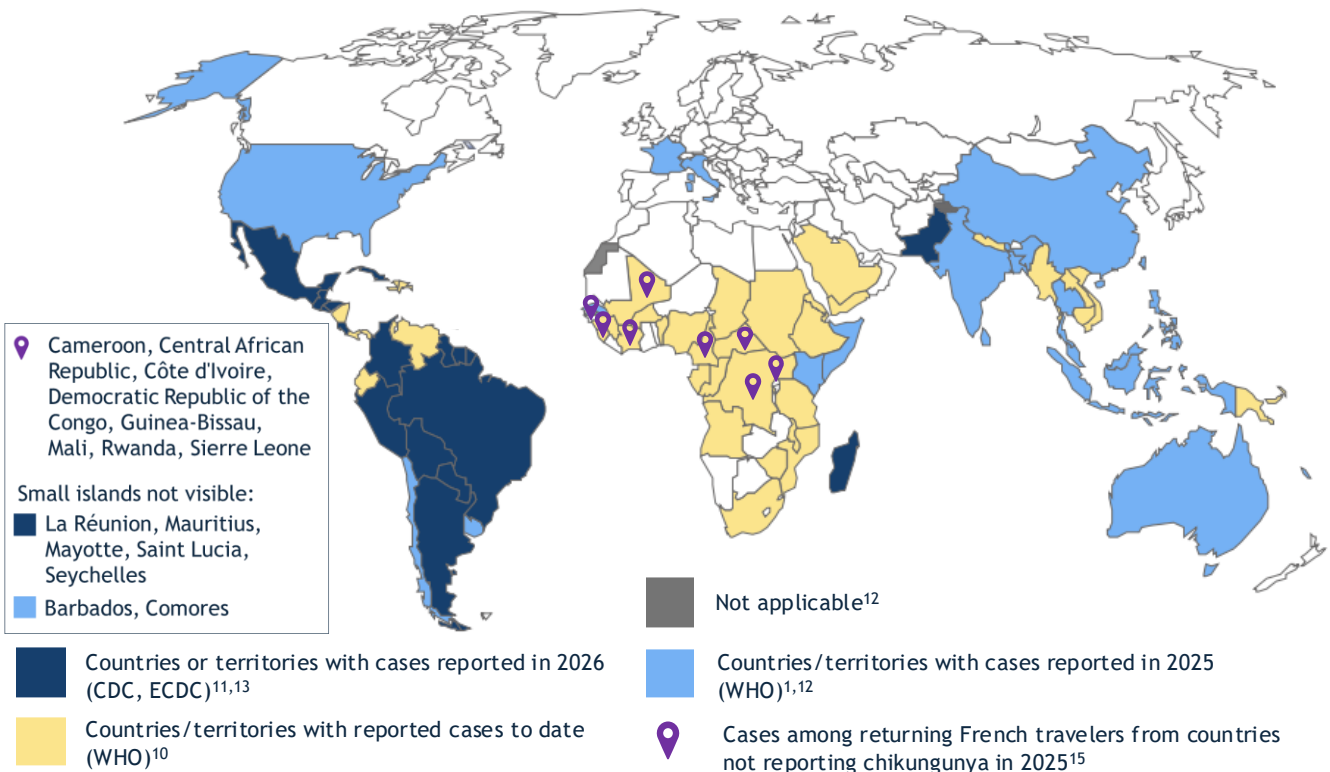
Mpox remains active in some West African countries, and vaccination recommendations and enhanced precautions should be communicated clearly to travellers visiting these regions.

# TRAVEL HEALTH UPDATES FOR HCPS

Chikungunya has been reported in 119 countries/territories<sup>10</sup> some are CDC-listed as having current outbreaks or as areas with elevated risk<sup>11</sup>

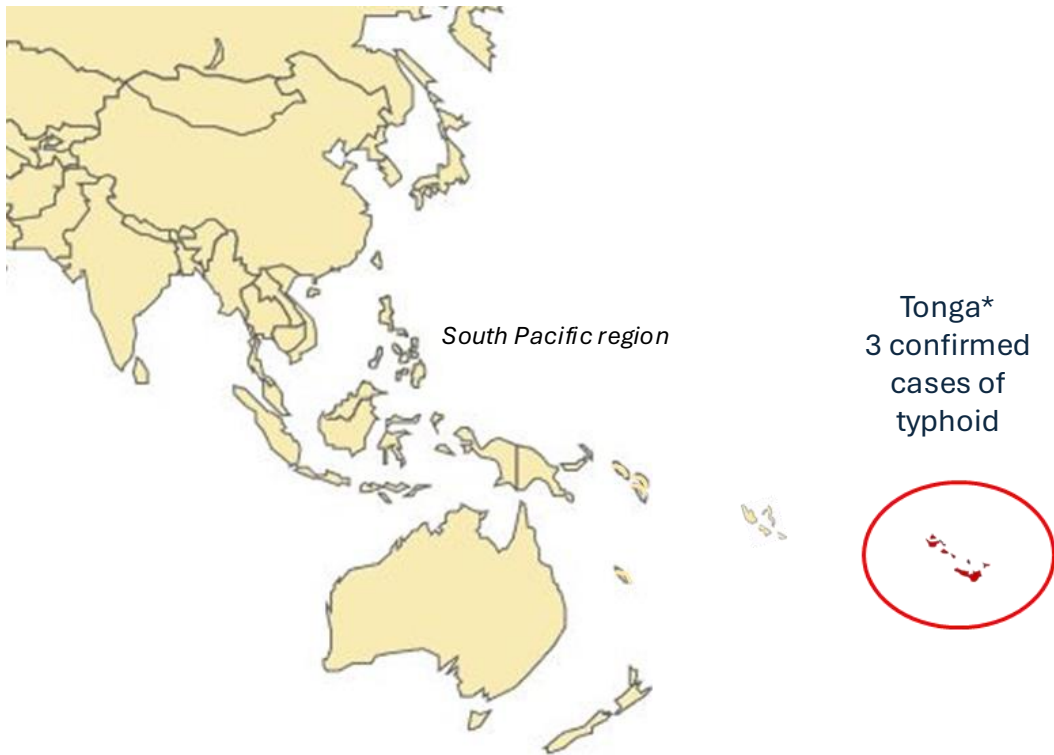


## Additional reports and data from returning travelers reveal wider geographic impact



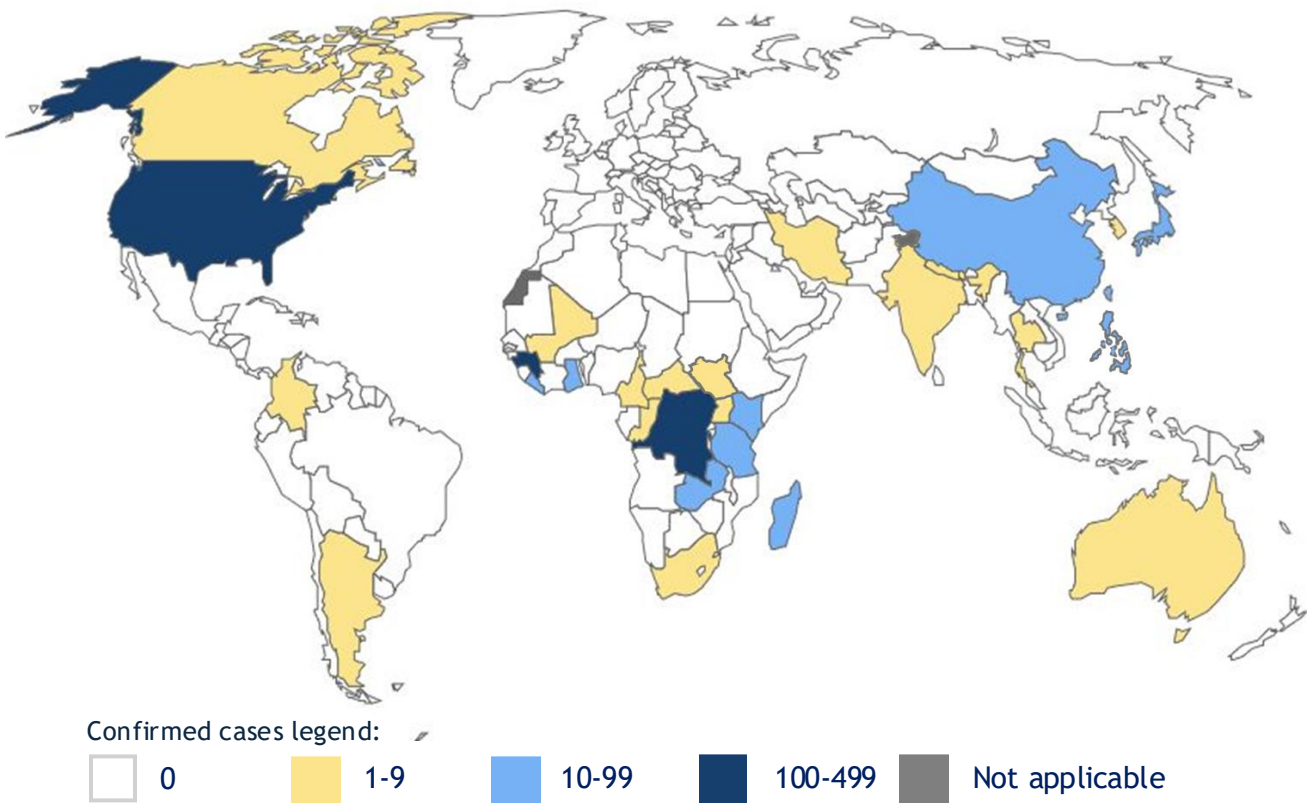
# TRAVEL HEALTH UPDATES FOR HCPS

## TYPHOID OUTBREAK IN TONGA (as of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026)<sup>16</sup>



\* Not drawn to scale. Colors are used solely to denote the geographical location of Tonga and South Pacific region and are not correlated with typhoid cases.

## CONFIRMED CASES OF MPOX (1-31 DECEMBER 2025)<sup>17</sup>



## Publications

### CHIKUNGUNYA



During the 2025 chikungunya epidemic on the island of Réunion, researchers estimated that 208 excess deaths occurred among adults aged  $\geq 65$  years between March and May—substantially higher than the 27 fatalities officially reported. These findings highlight that routine surveillance systems may significantly underestimate the true mortality burden associated with chikungunya<sup>18</sup>.



Although no head-to-head comparative studies are currently available, existing chikungunya vaccines have distinct characteristics that should be considered when advising travellers. A [2025 publication](#) summarizes key data on immunogenicity, safety, and usage recommendations, including considerations for pregnancy and breastfeeding, to support healthcare providers in guiding individuals considering vaccination<sup>19</sup>.



Recent evidence indicates that CHIKV transmission by *Aedes albopictus* can occur at lower temperatures than previously recognized, with transmission possible at temperatures as low as 13.8°C. This expanded thermal range increases both the seasonal and geographic risk of CHIKV transmission in Europe, allowing for potential spread during July-August in more northern and central regions such as Germany and the Netherlands, and extending the transmission season to May-November in southern Europe<sup>20</sup>.



Protection against CHIKV has been demonstrated in non-human primate models. In these studies, passive transfer of serum from recipients of a CHIKV virus-like particle (VLP) vaccine followed by CHIKV challenge prevented viremia at neutralizing antibody titers  $\geq 25.7$ , with no detectable viral RNA or infectious virus. These findings are consistent with sterilizing immunity. A higher neutralizing antibody threshold of 100 was selected as a conservative benchmark for predicting protection in humans<sup>21</sup>.

# Publications

### RABIES



A French traveler died in January 2025 from rabies encephalitis after a dog bite in Morocco. Although post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) was started, only one dose was received, and the vaccination series was not completed after returning to France. This is the second travel-related rabies death in France since 2023 linked to Morocco, emphasizing the critical need for thorough pre-travel risk assessment and completion of PEP regimens<sup>22</sup>.

### TYPHOID



A case in Germany involving a traveller returning from a four-week trip to southwest India identified a carbapenem-resistant *Salmonella Typhi* infection after standard antibiotics failed. Healthcare professionals should prioritise counselling travellers on typhoid vaccination, safe food and water practices, and proper sanitation, all of which remain essential for preventing typhoid fever<sup>23</sup>.

### CHOLERA



An imported case of cholera was recently reported in a German traveller following a 21-day trip to Côte d'Ivoire, underscoring the continued risk amid an ongoing multi-country outbreak in sub-Saharan Africa. Travel health professionals should ensure travellers are well informed about cholera risks, preventive measures, and the importance of promptly reporting symptoms such as acute watery diarrhoea after returning<sup>24</sup>.

# Publications

### MPOX



The Netherlands reports local clade Ib mpox transmission (Oct–Nov 2025). A Eurosurveillance investigation documented the first detection and autochthonous (local) transmission of mpox clade Ib in the Netherlands. The report shows that once introduced (including via travel), mpox can lead to onward community spread - not only isolated travel-associated cases. Risk isn't limited to "imported" cases. Travelers can be exposed through local transmission at their destination, particularly in close-contact settings<sup>25</sup>.



The emergence of clade Ib mpox outside Africa further raises concerns about global preparedness. A Lancet Infectious Diseases commentary by Judson and colleagues emphasizes existing gaps in readiness, including the need for faster detection, clearer risk communication, and more rapid response capacity. It also reinforces that while importation is inevitable, the level of risk depends largely on the nature of exposure—particularly close skin-to-skin contact, including sexual contact—rather than destination alone. This underscores the importance of targeted pre-travel counseling for higher-risk individuals, including discussions around vaccination (where eligible), symptom awareness, and clear guidance on actions to take if symptoms develop during or after travel<sup>26</sup>.



A recent *Emerging Infectious Diseases* study tracked 89 travel-related clade Ib mpox cases across 33 countries and found that about one-third led to onward transmission. Most cases were in men, and the highest secondary transmission risk was among sexual contacts, followed by household contacts. For travel medicine clinicians, the message is clear: imported mpox cases can still seed local spread, making rapid recognition, contact tracing, and targeted follow-up essential. The study reinforces the need to consider mpox in returning travelers with compatible symptoms and exposure history<sup>27</sup>.

## Events in the next quarter

### Upcoming Conference

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Northern European Conference on Travel Medicine (NECTM10)

- Bavarian Nordic-sponsored Symposium: **Understanding Chikungunya and Advancing Pre-Travel Clinical Practice in Complex Travelers.**

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

**Time:** 12:15 - 13:15 at ICC Belfast

**Speakers:** Dr. Ravi Gowda, Dr. Marta Díaz Menéndez

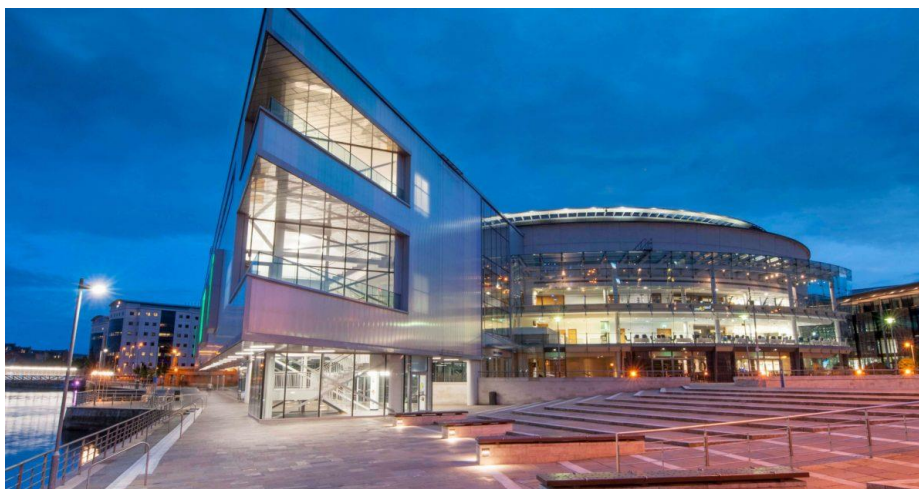
**Link:** [NECTM10](#)

- Bavarian Nordic-sponsored Nurse Reception: **Typhoid and International Travel: Adapting Pre-Travel Advice to Changing Risks.**

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

**Time:** 19:30 - 20:30 at Titanic Hotel, Belfast

**Speaker:** RN Kathrine Lynch



#### 4th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID)

June 1-5, 2026, in Bologna, Italy

Visit Bavarian Nordic at Booth #2

For more information about ESPID, visit: <https://espidmeeting.org/>

# Upcoming Conferences

- **American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) National Conference**  
Las Vegas, NV, June 23-27, 2026. [More info here](#)
- **NACCHO360 – National Association of City and County Health Officials**  
Louisville, KY, July 14-17, 2026. [More info here](#)  
Visit us at our Medical Booth #914 to connect with our medical team at the conference

# REFERENCES

1. WHO Rapid Risk Assessment - Chikungunya virus disease, Global v.1. Dec 2025 Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/who-rapid-risk-assessment---chikungunya-virus--global-v.1>
2. Epidemiological alert Chikungunya - 10 February 2026 - PAHO/WHO | Pan American Health Organization. Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://www.paho.org/en/documents/epidemiological-alert-chikungunya-10-february-2026>
3. CDC Travelers' Health: Rabies in India, 2025. Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/level1/rabies-india#:~:text=Key%20points,provider%20as%20soon%20as%20possible>
4. Vax-Before-Travel. India's Rabies Situation Concerns the U.S. CDC. 2025. Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://www.vax-before-travel.com/2025/12/01/indias-rabies-situation-concerns-us-cdc>
5. NMHealth. First rabies case of 2026 reported in New Mexico. March 2026. Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://www.nmhealth.org/news/information/2026/3/?view=2324#:~:text=First%20rabies%20case%20of%202026%20reported%20in%20New%20Mexico>
6. Outbreak News Today. Tonga typhoid update. February 2026. Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://outbreaknewstoday.substack.com/p/tonga-typhoid-update>
7. Travel Health Pro. Food and water hygiene. Advice on avoiding food and water-borne diseases. October 2025. Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/factsheet/44/food-and-water-hygiene>
8. WHO. Mpox: recombinant virus with genomic elements of clades Ib and IIb - Global. February 2026. Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2026-DON595>
9. CDC. Travelers' Health. Clade II Monkeypox in Ghana and Liberia. January 2026. Accessed March 2026: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/level2/monkeypox-western-africa>
10. World Health Organization. Chikungunya epidemiology update - June 2025. Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026. <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/chikungunya-epidemiology-update-june-2025>
11. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Areas at risk for chikungunya. 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026. Accessed 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/data-maps/index.html>
12. World Health Organization (WHO). Disease Outbreak News. Chikungunya virus disease- Global situation. 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025. Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2025-DON581>
13. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Chikungunya virus disease worldwide overview. March 2026. Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/chikungunya-monthly>
14. World Health Organization (WHO). WHO Rapid Risk Assessment - Chikungunya virus disease, Global v.1. 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/who-rapid-risk-assessment---chikungunya-virus--global-v.1>
15. Santé publique. Chikungunya, dengue, Zika et West Nile en France hexagonale. Bulletin de la surveillance renforcée du 26 novembre 2025. Updated 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Accessed 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/maladies-et-traumatismes/maladies-a-transmission-vectorielle/chikungunya/documents/bulletin-national/chikungunya-dengue-zika-et-west-nile-en-france-hexagonale.-bulletin-de-la-surveillance-renforcee-du-26-novembre-2025>

## REFERENCES

16. World Health Organization (WHO). Current outbreaks and emergencies. Western Pacific Surveillance and Response Journal. Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/wpro-emergencies/overview>
17. World Health Organization (WHO). Mpox. Multi-country external situation report no. 62. January 2026. Accessed 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/multi-country-outbreak-of-mpox--external-situation-report--62---23-january-2026>
18. Ribas Freitas, A.R.; Hughes Freitas, L.; Lima Neto, A.S.; Goes Cavalcanti, L.P.; Alarcón-Elbal, P.M. Increased Mortality Rates During the 2025 Chikungunya Epidemic in Réunion Island. *Viruses*. 2026, 18, 180. <https://doi.org/10.3390/v18020180>
19. Hills SL, Shlim DR, Schofield S, Wilson ME, Barnett ED, Chen LH, Christensen KJ, Staples JE. Chikungunya vaccination for travellers: practical guidance for clinical decision-making, *Journal of Travel Medicine*. 2025, 32; 8: taaf118, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jtm/taaf118>
20. Tegar S, Brass DP, Purse BV, Cobbold CA, White SM. Temperature-sensitive incubation, transmissibility and risk of *Aedes albopictus*-borne chikungunya virus in Europe. *J R Soc Interface*. 2026, 23; 235: 20250707. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsif.2025.0707>
21. Morello, CS, Anantha R., Comer JE. et al. Passive transfer of human sera from chikungunya virus virus-like particle vaccine (Vimkunya) recipients fully protects non-human primates from viremia. *npj Vaccines*. 2026, 11, 38. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41541-025-01360-1>
22. Wun ML, Grandbesnaçon D, Cano P, Gassoumi H, Parize P, Poujol P, Bouhry H, Gautret P. Human rabies in Avignon, France, following exposure in Morocco, 2025. *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*. 2026, 163: 108285. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2025.108285>
23. Simon S, Trost E, Lennings J, et al. Carbapenem-Resistant *Salmonella* Typhi Infection in Traveler Returning to Germany from India, 2024. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. 2025, 31; 12:2335-2338. doi:10.3201/eid3112.251234.
24. Eggers Y, Hilgeman V, Jelinek T. Imported cholera in a German traveller returning from Côte d'Ivoire: rapid detection of *Vibrio cholerae* by syndromic multiplex PCR panel, *Journal of Travel Medicine*. 2025, 32; 7: taaf109. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jtm/taaf109>
25. Elsinga J, van de Ven C, de Vries A, Coppoolse H, Petrignani M, van Cleef B, van Markus R, Carpay N, van Ewijk CE, Rebers S, Bart A, von Eije KJ, Westerhuis B, Bruisten S, Schuele L, Boter M, Molenkamp R, Lemkes B, Geerlings S, de Vries HJ, Koopmans M, Jonges M, Oude Munnink BB, Welkers MR. First detection and autochthonous transmission of monkeypox virus clade Ib in the Netherlands, October to November 2025. *Euro Surveill*. 2026, 31; 3:2500958. doi: 10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2026.31.3.2500958.
26. Judson S, Yinda C, Kaiser F et al. Circulation of clade Ib mpox outside of Africa—are we prepared? *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*. 2026; 26, 334-336
27. Laurenson-Schafer H, McMenamin M, Ebbarnezh L, et al. Characteristics and Transmission Dynamics of Global Travel-Related Mpox Cases Caused by Clade Ib Monkeypox Virus. *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. 2026, 32; 2 :225-228. doi:10.3201/eid3202.251530.