



TRAVEL HEALTH Newsletter



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Up-to-date travel health by Bavarian Nordic

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Bavarian Nordic is pleased to share this updated travel health newsletter, now expanded to include mpox.

We value your feedback and encourage you to share your thoughts to help improve future issues.

WHAT IS NEW IN TRAVEL HEALTH?

Latest publications and notable facts on chikungunya, mpox, rabies, and tick-borne encephalitis

National LGBTQ Health Conference

Chicago, IL, August 19-20, 2026

See page 8

2026 US Conference on HIV/AIDS

Anaheim, CA,
September 17-20, 2026

See page 8

The latest health
alerts for HCPs





Did you know?.....



CHIKUNGUNYA

Travel-associated chikungunya cases rose markedly in 2025 versus 2024 in several European countries, including England (105 to 159; ~1.5-fold),¹ Germany (51 to 227; ~4.5-fold),² and France (34 to 2,398; ~70-fold).^{3,4} As of 11 June 2026, Germany had already reported 168 travel-related cases in 2026.⁵

From January to March 2026, local transmission had been reported in 18 countries worldwide and is expected to increase further during 2026, particularly during rainy season (peak transmission period e.g., May–October in Asia-Pacific, May–November in the northern hemisphere of the Americas, June–September in continental Europe). The WHO rapid risk assessment describes ongoing transmission and a continued risk for geographic spread, associated with vector presence, favorable environmental conditions, and increasing travel.⁶

MPOX

Mpox epidemiology continues to evolve. Although clade I outbreaks remain concentrated in central and eastern Africa, recent surveillance indicates clade Ib transmission and travel-associated cases linked to western Europe. Clade I cases have been reported in multiple EU/EEA countries, predominantly among men who have sex with men. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control highlights the need for vaccination and targeted awareness ahead of spring/summer travel and mass gatherings. Pre-travel consultations should assess mpox risk based on destination, sexual or close-contact exposures, event attendance, and vaccination status.^{7,8}



AI-generated illustration. This image is for illustrative purposes only





Did you know?.....

RABIES

National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) update: What's new? Canada's NACI now recommends a simplified 2-dose PrEP schedule for travelers with anticipated exposure in less than three years. A standardized risk-assessment has been introduced to guide PrEP decisions using public health epidemiology data.⁹



~1%

exposure risk
per high-risk
destination trip¹⁰



What to remember:

Prevention starts before travel

Consider pre-exposure vaccination and educate travelers to seek urgent assessment after any potential animal exposure, even when bite or scratch marks are not visible



Recent alerts



New Jersey, USA:

Several people received PEP after a beaver attack resulted in injuries to multiple people, including an 8-year-old boy¹¹



Alaska, USA:

Dog rabies case triggered precautionary PEP in multiple individuals after having contact with infected animals¹²



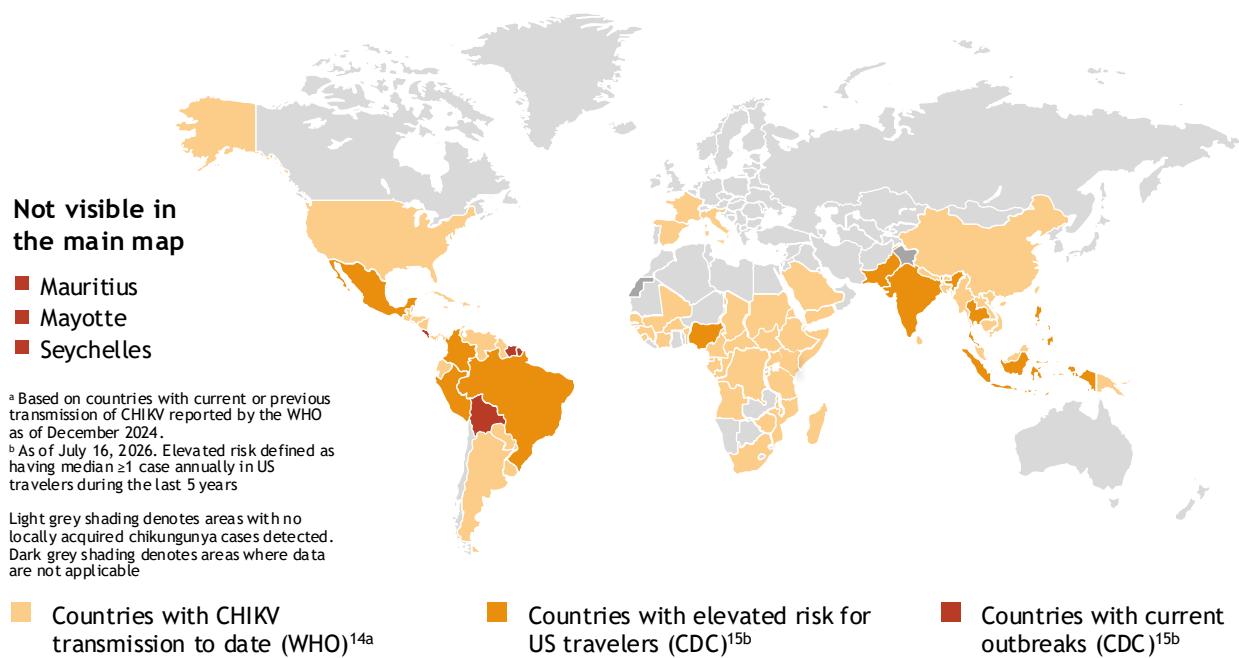
Ontario, CA:

An 11-year-old boy died of rabies in 2024 after waking with a bat on his face. No bite marks or scratches were visible, so PEP was not sought. He developed neurological disease 19 days later and died despite intensive care¹³

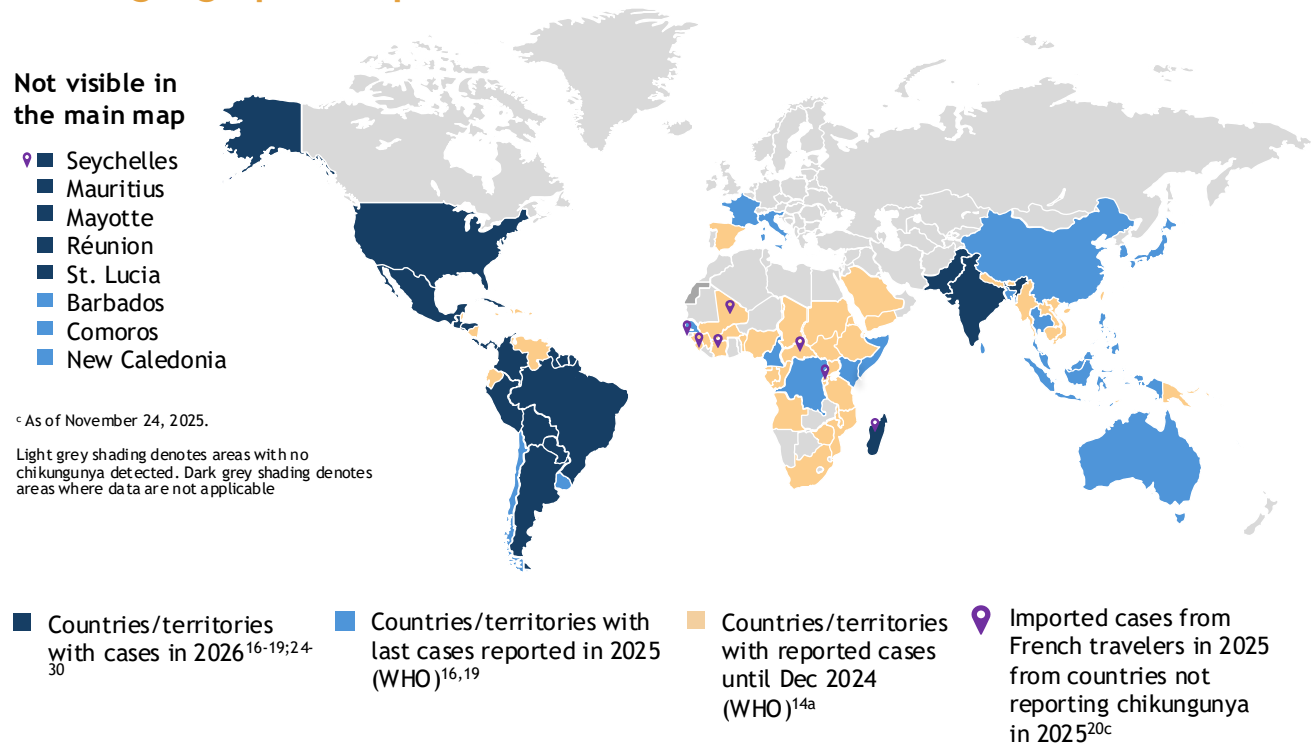




Chikungunya has been reported in 119 countries and territories. CDC lists current outbreaks or areas with elevated risk



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



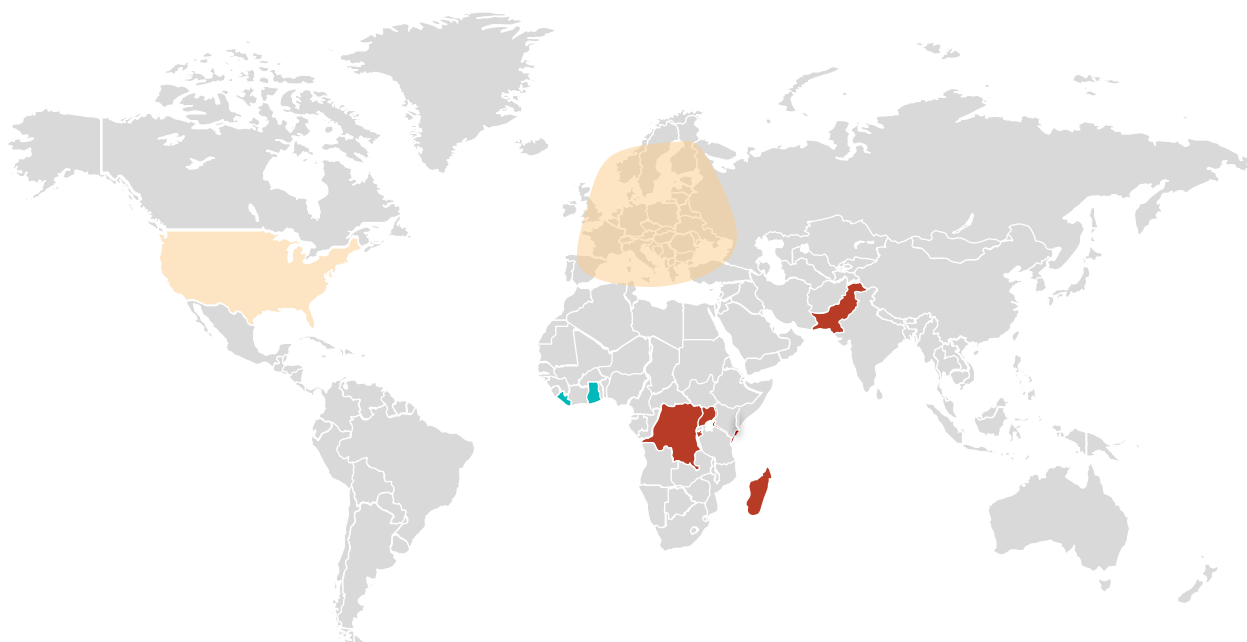


Recent Mpox outbreaks

■ Clade I signals

■ Clade I/Ib major outbreaks

■ Clade II outbreaks



This map was created with AI assistance using available information from the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/monkeypox/situation-summary/index.html>), ECDC (<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2026-WCP-0024%20Final.pdf>) and WHO (<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/multi-country-outbreak-of-mpox--external-situation-report--65---30-april-2026>).²¹⁻²³

Clade I signals

United States: Travel-associated clade I cases continue to be identified, with 40 laboratory-confirmed cases since November 2024.²¹

EU/EEA: 336 clade I cases reported across 15 countries from April 2025 to March 2026²².

Clade I/Ib major outbreaks

Africa: Large burdens reported in Burundi, DRC, Kenya, Madagascar, and Uganda. In the 6 weeks up to 3 May 2026, most cases were reported in DRC and Madagascar.²³

Pakistan: A neonatal/pediatric clade Ib cluster has been reported between March and April 2026 in the Sindh province. Infant deaths have been reported.²³

Clade II outbreaks

West Africa: Recent outbreaks have been reported in Ghana and Liberia. Travel health notices remain relevant.²³

Surveillance has decreased since mpox is no longer classified as a public health emergency of international concern, making it likely that some cases remain undetected or unreported.





Publications

Chikungunya:



Travel surveillance by GeoSentinel has identified 111 chikungunya cases in travelers returning from Cuba (September 2025-January 2026), with a median length of stay of 20.5 days. 55% of the cases accounted for tourists, with a median length of stay of 15 days. Most travelers were symptomatic during or shortly after travel and over half were potentially viremic on return, indicating risk of onward transmission in areas where *Aedes* mosquitoes are established. Notably, very few travelers (~8%) had received pre-travel consultation. Early GeoSentinel signals preceded formal outbreak recognition.²⁴



A single-center study of 19 adolescents with perinatal chikungunya infection showed reduced cognitive and adaptive function versus matched controls, with around two-thirds experiencing neurodevelopmental impairment and a subset meeting criteria for intellectual disability, underscoring the potential long-term burden of early-life infection. Interpretation is limited by potential COVID 19-related bias and residual confounding.²⁵



Findings from a recent study of the CHIKV VLP vaccine support existing data that it induces a rapid and durable immune response. CHIKV specific CD4+ T cell responses were detectable by day 8 and maintained for at least 6 months in vaccinated adults. Responses were typically accompanied by T follicular helper cell activation, supporting sustained humoral immunity.²⁶



A preclinical study in a cynomolgus macaque model has shown that the CHIKV VLP vaccine reduces viremia, clinical disease, and joint pathology after viral challenge. In a subsequent passive transfer of vaccinated human IgG into non-immunized macaques, similar results were seen which support neutralizing antibodies as a correlate of protection. Notably, in this NHP study, clinical benefits were observed at antibody titers as low as $NT_{80} = 35$, below the surrogate threshold of $NT_{80} \geq 100$ set by regulatory authorities in the clinical development program.²⁷



Publications

Rabies:



In an observational study of 141 international travelers seeking rabies PEP in Thailand, 4.3% had incomplete PEP and 47.9% experienced treatment delays. The most common reason for delayed first treatment was lack of awareness that PEP was needed after mammal exposure (25.8%, n=8). Among travelers with Category III exposures requiring RIG, 64.7% (n=11) did not receive RIG at their first medical encounter. These findings reinforce the importance of pre-travel counseling on rabies risk, timely PEP seeking, and the role of PrEP in simplifying post-exposure management.²⁸

Mpox:



Mpox clade Ib is no longer confined to Central/Eastern Africa, with travel-associated cases now reported globally. This highlights the need for pre-travel consultations to assess sexual/close-contact exposures.²⁹

Emerging European transmission in sexual networks indicates that clade Ib can sustain spread outside Africa, reinforcing the need to discuss vaccination before high-contact events (e.g., Pride, festivals, sexual-network-associated travel).³⁰

Upcoming Conferences

Wilderness Medicine Conference - Summer Session

- Big Sky, MT, July 25-29, 2026. [More info here](#)

National LGBTQ Health Conference

- Chicago, IL, August 19-20, 2026. [More info here](#)

2026 US Conference on HIV/AIDS

- Anaheim, CA, September 17-20, 2026. [More info here](#)

TRAVEL HEALTH UPDATES FOR HCPs

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