



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, outbreak 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.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

SIDP - Oct 18
ID WEEK - Oct 19-22
APHA- Nov 2-5
ASTMH - Nov 9-13
Vaccine Summit -
Nov 13-15

The latest
health
alerts
for HCPs





Did you know?.....



CHIKUNGUNYA

In July 2025, the WHO raised a call to action due to the rapid and expanding global spread of chikungunya, a mosquito-borne viral disease that has seen a notable surge in cases across multiple regions in 2025.¹ Current examples are mainland China, which faces a major outbreak of chikungunya with more than 8,000 autochthonous cases reported as of August in Guangdong, southern China,² and southern Europe, where autochthonous cases of chikungunya have been reported in France (September 15, 479 cases, 54 clusters) and Italy (September 16, 205 cases, 4 clusters).^{3,4}

TYPHOID

Preliminary data from the UKHSA indicates a rise in travel-related enteric fever cases across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, reporting 702 cases in 2024, which is an 8% increase compared to 645 cases in 2023. This marks the highest annual total recorded so far⁵.





Did you know?.....

RABIES

Three rabies fatalities were reported in June 2025, following dog bites in Morocco and Ethiopia.



A 59-year-old woman died in the UK after being scratched by a stray puppy in Morocco in February 2025. She did not seek any treatment and developed symptoms 3 months later back in the UK.⁶



A Swiss tourist developed rabies after being scratched and bitten by a stray dog in Morocco. The animal was initially misdiagnosed with a non-transmissible viral infection, delaying appropriate intervention. She was given partial PEP as a precaution; however, she died shortly afterwards.⁷

The death of the Swiss traveller prompted the Swiss FDFA to update their travel advisory for Morocco, specifically highlighting the elevated risk of rabies transmission from stray animals.⁸

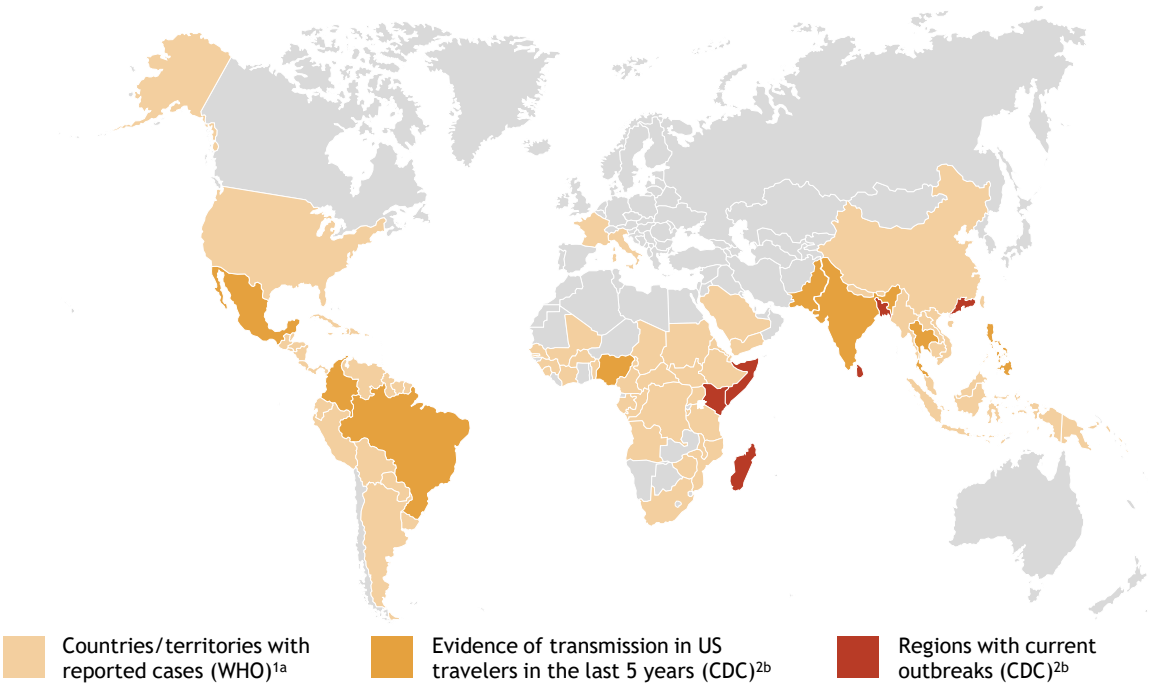


The first rabies-related death in Spain since 1978 was reported after exposure in Ethiopia. A 44-year-old man died in Valencia after contracting rabies from a dog bite in Ethiopia in July 2024. The wound was cleaned but he did not receive rabies PEP. He began having symptoms in Spain in May 2025, for which he received rabies immunoglobulin.⁹

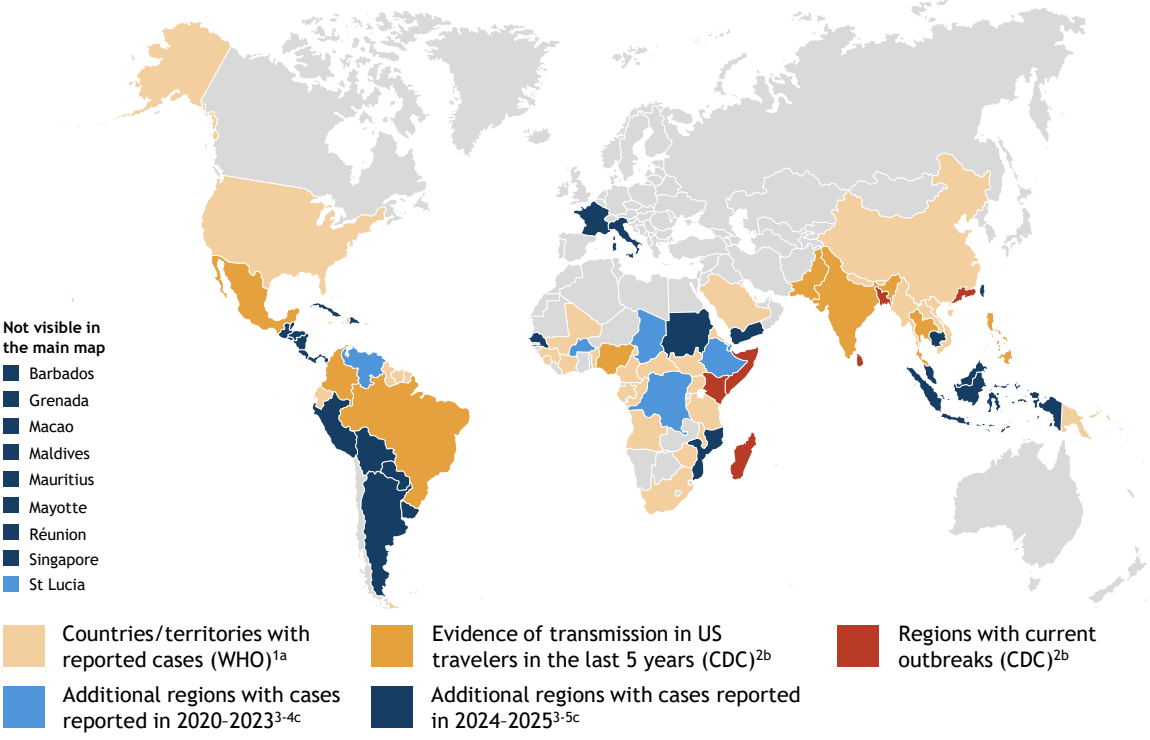




Chikungunya has been reported in 119 countries and territories;¹ some are CDC-listed as having current outbreaks or as high-risk areas²



Official data on outbreaks and risk areas do not reflect the distribution of chikungunya virus



^aBased on countries with current or previous transmission of chikungunya virus reported by the WHO as of December 2024. ^bAs of September 5, 2025. ^cExcludes regions captured in CDC data.²
1. World Health Organization. Chikungunya epidemiology update - June 2025. Accessed September 16, 2025. <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/chikungunya-epidemiology-update-june-2025>
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3. Pan American Health Organization. Chikungunya weekly report. Accessed September 16, 2025. <https://www3.paho.org/data/index.php/en/mnu-topics/chiky-en/550-chiky-weekly-en.html>
4. Case data modified with permission from gideon. Accessed September 12, 2025. <https://app.gideononline.com/start>
5. Huits, R., Libman, M., Hammer, D.H., et al. Resurgence of chikungunya in the Indian Ocean region in 2024-2025. *Journal of Travel Medicine* 2025; Jun 19:taaf055. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jtm/taaf055>



Publications

Aedes-borne arboviruses and chikungunya:

- A major chikungunya outbreak started to unfold in the IOR in 2024, with Réunion reporting over 53,000 confirmed cases and 20 deaths. The GeoSentinel network flagged a sharp rise in travel-related cases, especially from Réunion, Sri Lanka, and Mauritius. Between August 1, 2024 and June 10, 2025, 80 cases of chikungunya acquired in the IOR were reported, a substantial increase compared with the 40 cases reported in the preceding 12 months. The authors recommend that travelers to the region should take precautions and consult their HCPs on vaccination options.¹⁰
- China has reported nearly 8,000 chikungunya cases in Guangdong in coastal southern China since mid-June 2025, prompting aggressive containment efforts. Authorities deployed insecticides, released larva-eating fish, used drones to spot mosquito breeding sites, and enforced hospital quarantine under treated bed nets. The outbreak highlights growing risks as *Aedes* mosquitoes expand their geographical range due to climate change.²
- Compared to the same period last year, chikungunya cases in UK travelers more than doubled in the first half of 2025. Most cases were linked to travel to Sri Lanka, India, and Mauritius. London alone saw 42 cases. Travelers can reduce chikungunya risk by using insect repellent, wearing protective clothing, sleeping under treated nets, and considering vaccination for high-risk destinations.¹¹
- A metagenomic retrospective study in Sri Lanka uncovered missed chikungunya infections in patients initially diagnosed with dengue. Of 60 samples from individuals with a diagnosis of suspected dengue, five were confirmed as chikungunya. Clinical symptoms for the two viruses overlap, making differentiation difficult without laboratory tests. The data show that chikungunya is underestimated and misdiagnosed and reinforces that the risk is higher than reported, highlighting the need for better access to diagnostics in dengue-endemic regions to improve outbreak response and prevalence estimates.¹²



Publications

Rabies:

- A study in 528 international travelers exposed to mammals in Eastern Thailand (2016-2022) showed that working-age travelers (35-60 years of age) are more likely to delay or not complete PEP. Misconceptions about superficial wounds and non-dog mammals contribute to poor adherence. The findings highlight the need to raise awareness about the importance of PrEP and interventions to improve adherence to PEP among international travelers.¹³ In situations where post-exposure treatment is delayed, either due to inaccessibility of healthcare or other logistical challenges, the antibodies built up from PrEP can help protect the individual until full PEP can be administered.¹⁴

Typhoid:

- Acute liver failure secondary to typhoid fever is extremely rare; however, a case was reported in a 48-year-old male traveler returning to the US.¹⁵ A previous report found that approximately 85% of typhoid fever cases reported in the US between 2016 and 2018 were attributed to international travel.¹⁶ HCPs should recognize the potential risk of life-threatening liver failure associated with typhoid fever, and take this into account during pre-travel consultations.

Cholera:

- A significant increase in travel-associated cholera cases in the UK has been reported by the UKHSA. A single case was reported in 2024 compared with eight cases reported in the first half of 2025. The majority of cases reported travel to India or Ethiopia.¹⁷
- Resistance to extended spectrum cephalosporins has been found in an analysis of 161 *V. cholerae* isolates from travellers arriving in the UK between 2019 and 2024. The WGS study identified four isolates carrying the bla_{PER-7} gene, which codes for a type of extended-spectrum beta-lactamase enzyme that confers resistance to certain beta-lactam antibiotics, such as cephalosporins and aztreonam.¹⁸ Continued surveillance is important in addressing the spread of drug-resistant pathogens in the context of increasing international travel. The prevalence of multidrug resistance in cholera isolates highlights the importance of alternative management and prevention options including oral cholera vaccines and long-term improvement of water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and practice.¹⁹



Upcoming conferences in the next quarter



- **National Community Pharmacists Association Annual Convention (NCPA)**
New Orleans, LA, October 18-21, 2025. [More info here](#)
Visit us at our Medical Booth #705 to connect with our medical team at the conference.
- **Annual meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (ID Week)**
Atlanta, GA, October 19-22, 2025. [More info here](#)
Visit us at Medical Corner #1521 to connect with our medical team at the conference.
- **American College of Rheumatology convergence (ACR)**
Chicago, IL, October 24-29, 2025. [More info here](#)
Join us at our chikungunya poster session #204 (Infection-related Rheumatic Disease Poster)- Sunday, October 26, 10:30-12:30 am - Hall F1
- **American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo (APHA)**
Washington, DC, November 2-5, 2025. [More info here](#)
Join us at our chikungunya poster session # 3089.0 (Disparities and Inquiries in Global Health) - Monday, November 3, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in Exhibit Hall B.
- **Annual meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH)**
Toronto, Canada, November 9-13, 2025. [More info here](#)
Don't miss our sponsored breakfast symposium *Outbreaks Without Headlines: Surveillance, Reporting, and Vaccination Against Chikungunya* - Dr. Kamran Khan, Dr. Neelika Malavige, and Dr. Marta Díaz Menéndez - Tuesday November 11, 7:00-8:45 AM.
- **Vaccine Summit**
Boston, MA, November 13-15, 2025. [More info here](#)
We will discuss normalizing mpox vaccination within broader prevention activities and integrating it into routine sexual health care.

Local Congresses:

MER® Infectious Diseases for Primary Care Courses in San Diego - Nov 7-9

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