

Travel Immunizations & Chemoprophylaxis:

Preventing Unwanted Infectious Souvenirs



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Disclosures

The planner(s) and speaker(s) have indicated that there are no relevant financial relationships with any ineligible companies to disclose.



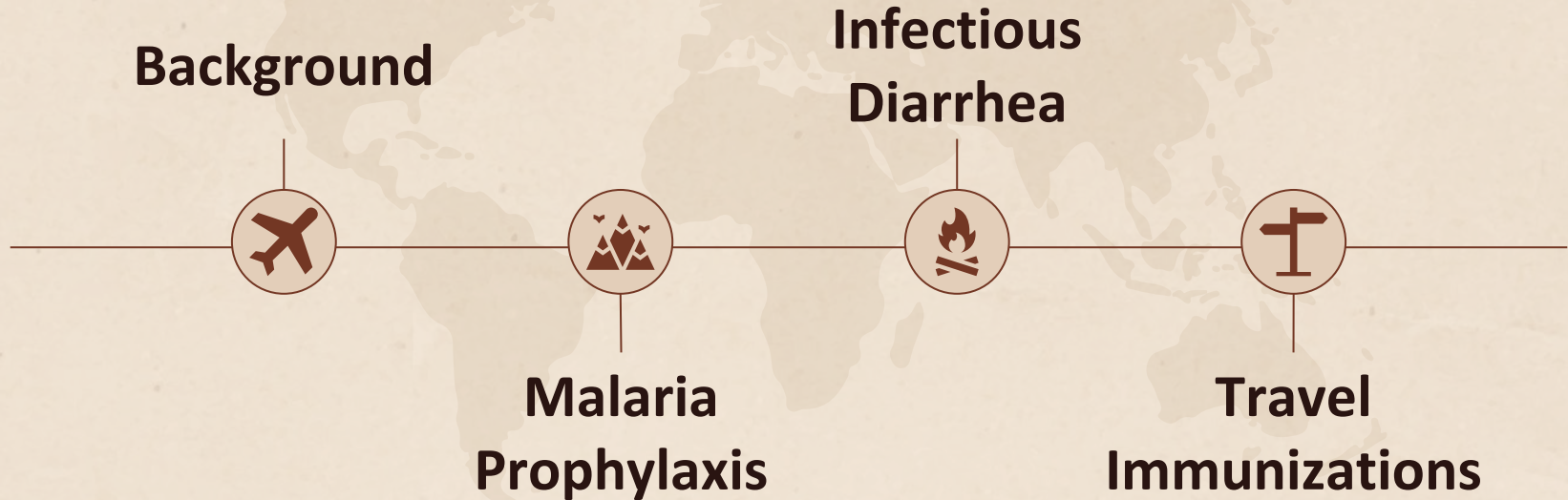
Learning Objectives

At the end of this session, learners should be able to:

1. Outline the epidemiology and pathophysiology of vaccine-preventable travel-related diseases to provide appropriate context for immunization recommendations.
2. Identify routine and destination-specific travel immunizations recommended by the CDC Yellow Book.
3. Recall the common medications used for malaria prophylaxis and treatment options for infectious diarrhea.
4. Discuss potential interactions, contraindications, and administration considerations when developing individualized travel medicine plans.



Presentation Itinerary



Abbreviation Key

- **ADRs:** adverse drug reactions
- **AIDS:** acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
- **BBW:** black box warning
- **BID:** twice daily
- **CAR-T:** chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy
- **CDC:** US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **CI:** contraindication
- **CrCl:** creatinine clearance
- **GVHD:** Graft-versus-host disease
- **HIV:** human immunodeficiency virus
- **HSCT:** hematopoietic stem cell transplantation
- **IM:** intramuscular
- **LFTs:** liver function tests
- **PO:** by mouth
- **TID:** three times daily



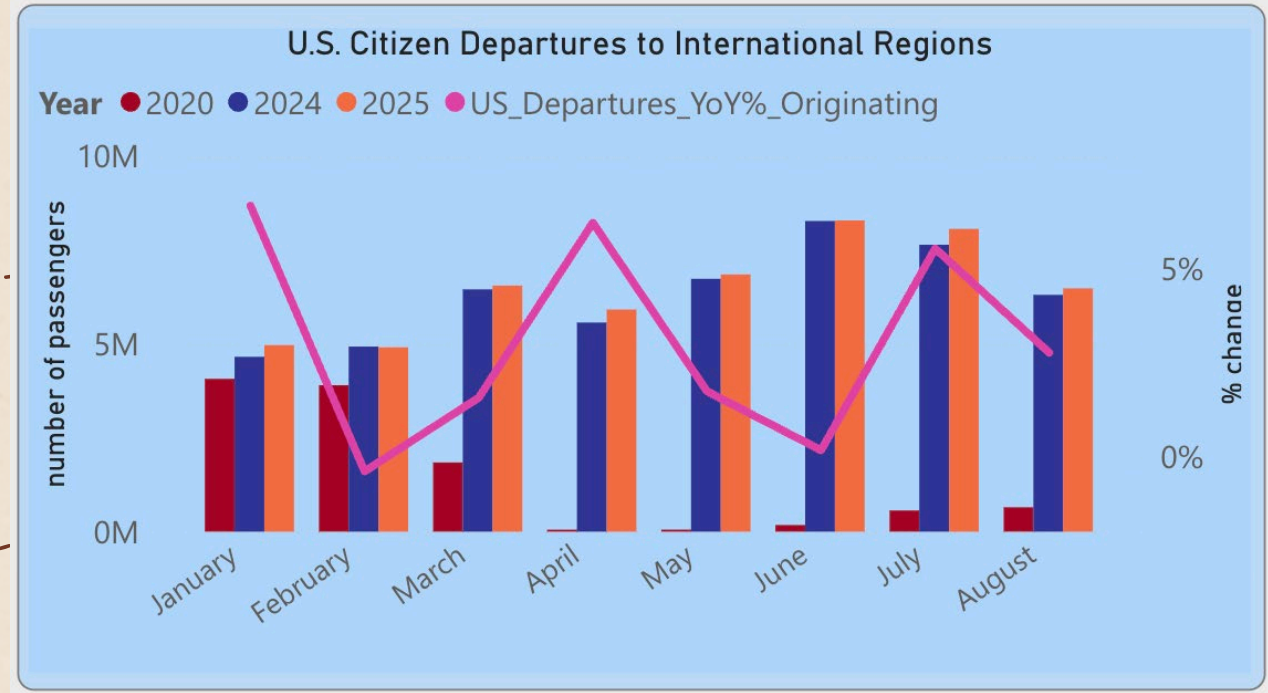
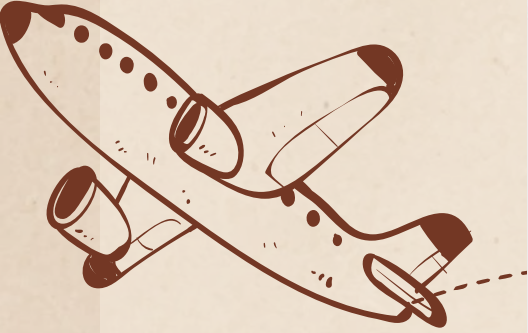


01

Background



Rates of International Travel



Patient Risk Assessment



WHO

- Age
- Comorbidities



WHAT

- Reason for trip
- Length of stay
- Anticipated exposures



WHEN

- Departure season

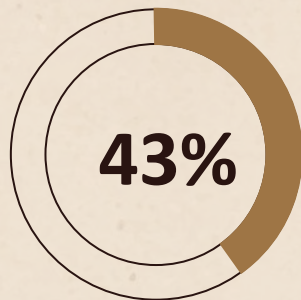


WHERE

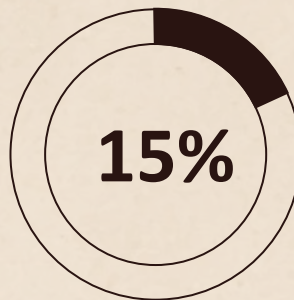
- Destination country
- Climate
- Rural vs urban



Travel Medicine: Risk & Risk Reduction



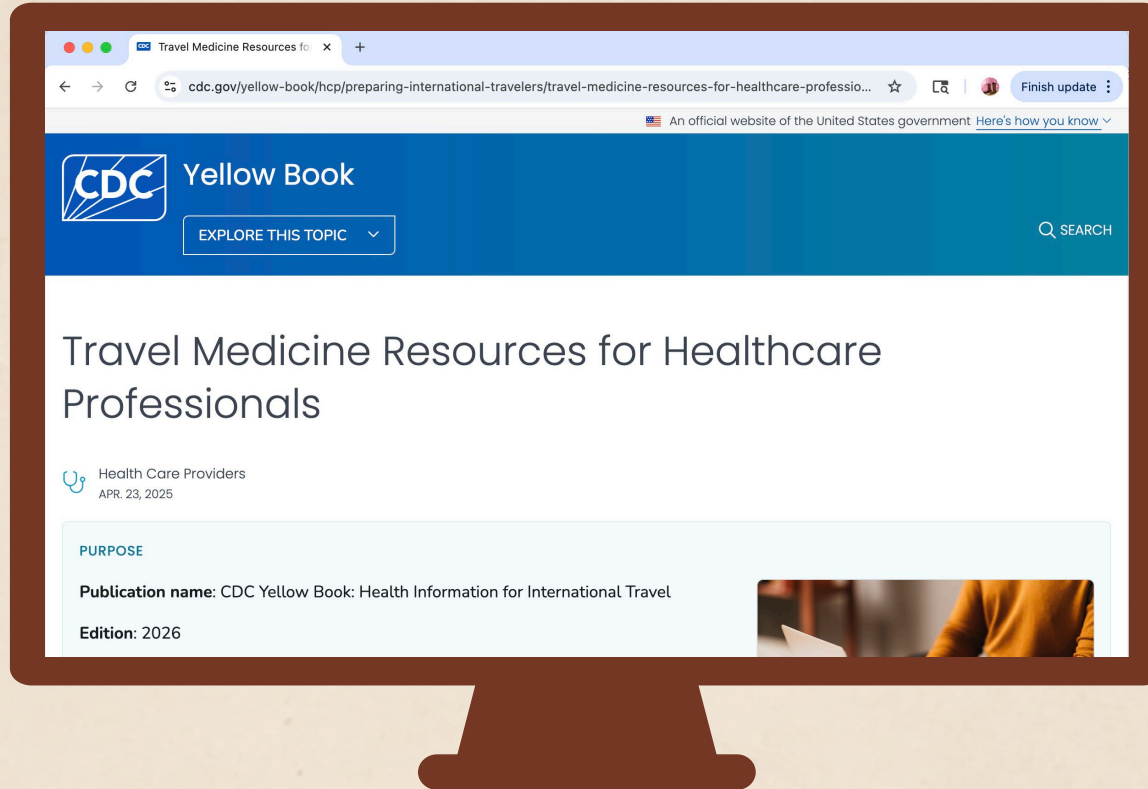
International
travelers who
become ill



International
travelers who seek
pre-departure
medical advice



Travel Medicine Resources





02

Malaria Prophylaxis



Epidemiology

- Malaria is endemic in 90 countries
- 125 million travelers visit these countries annually
- 10,000 to 30,000 of these travelers will develop malaria
- 1% of travelers who contract malaria will die from its complications



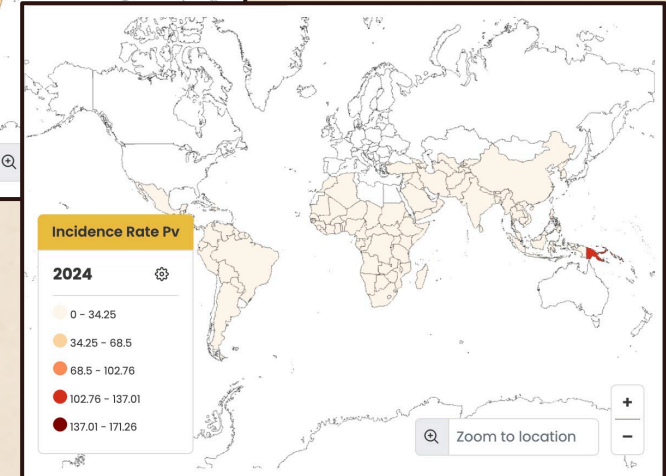
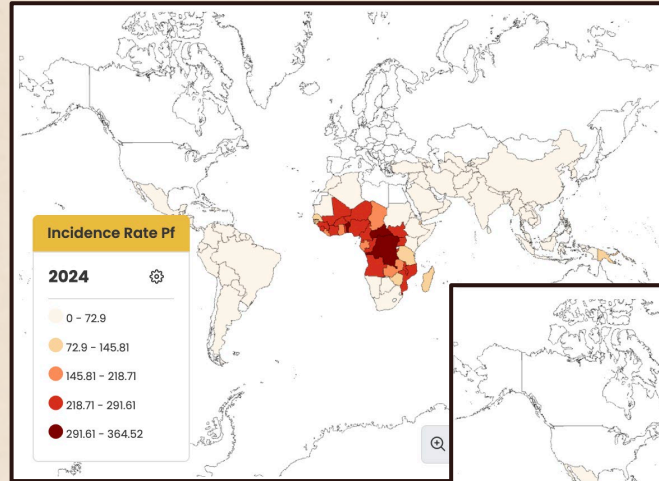
Epidemiology

Plasmodium falciparum

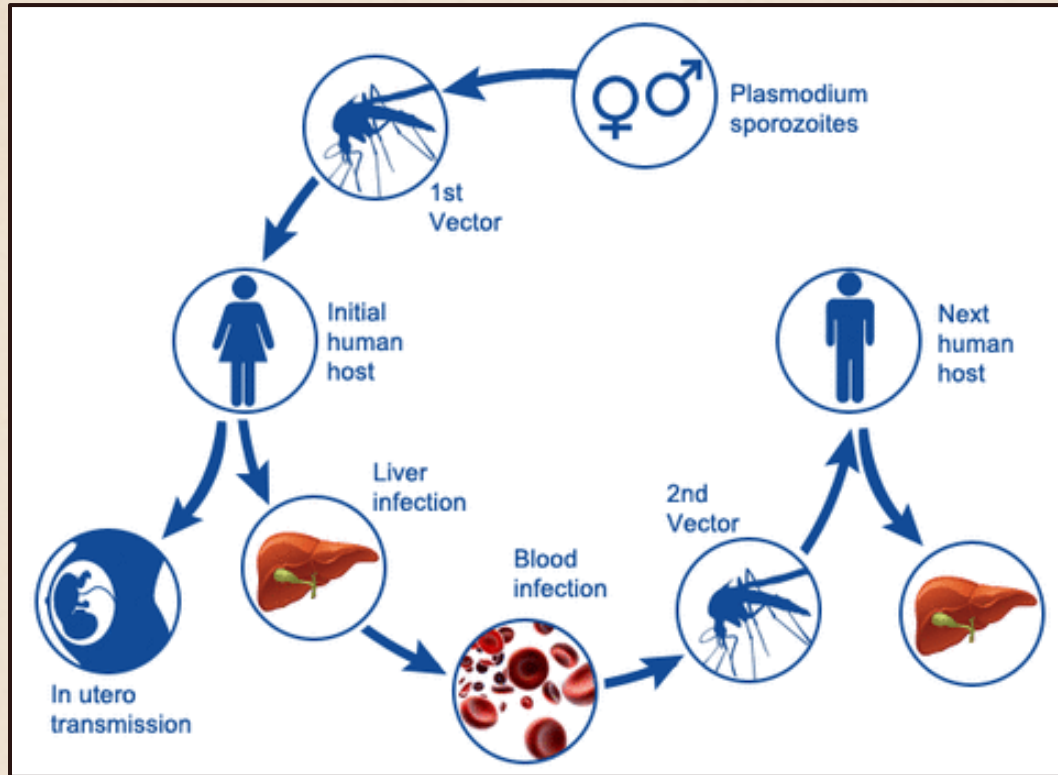
- Western & sub-Saharan Africa
- Highest morbidity and mortality of *Plasmodia* species

Plasmodium vivax

- South Asia
- Western Pacific
- Central America



Pathophysiology



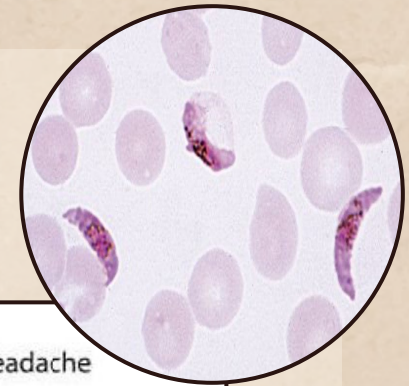
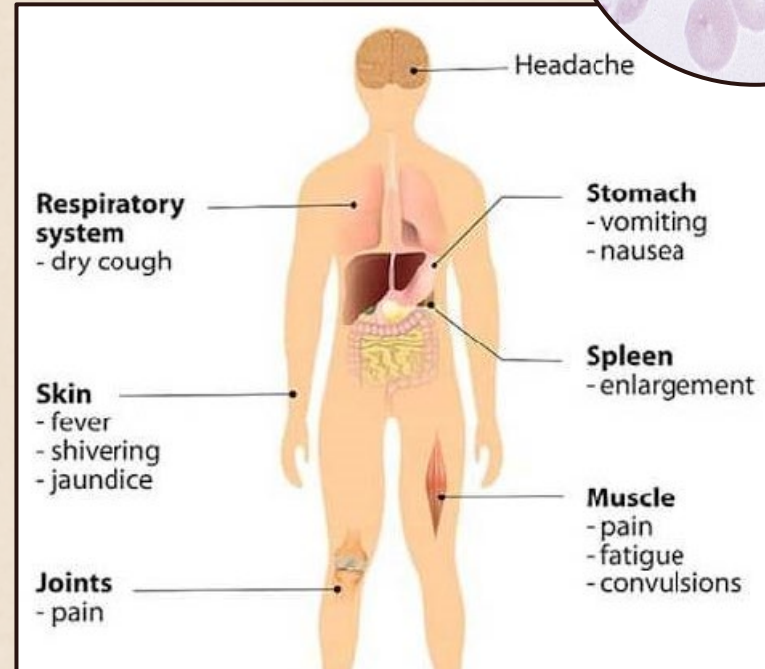
Presentation

Symptom onset: 7-15 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito

High risk patient groups: infants, children <5 years old, pregnant women, travelers, people with HIV or AIDS

Laboratory signs

- Thrombocytopenia
- Anemia
- Elevated LFTs
- Electrolyte abnormalities
- Proteinuria



Patient Case: 23-year-old male

May to June
2025

College biology research trip in Uganda
Provided atovaquone as malaria prophylaxis

September
30th, 2025

911 called due to disorientation on campus
Rash, cyclic fevers, chills, headache, vomiting

October
9th, 2025

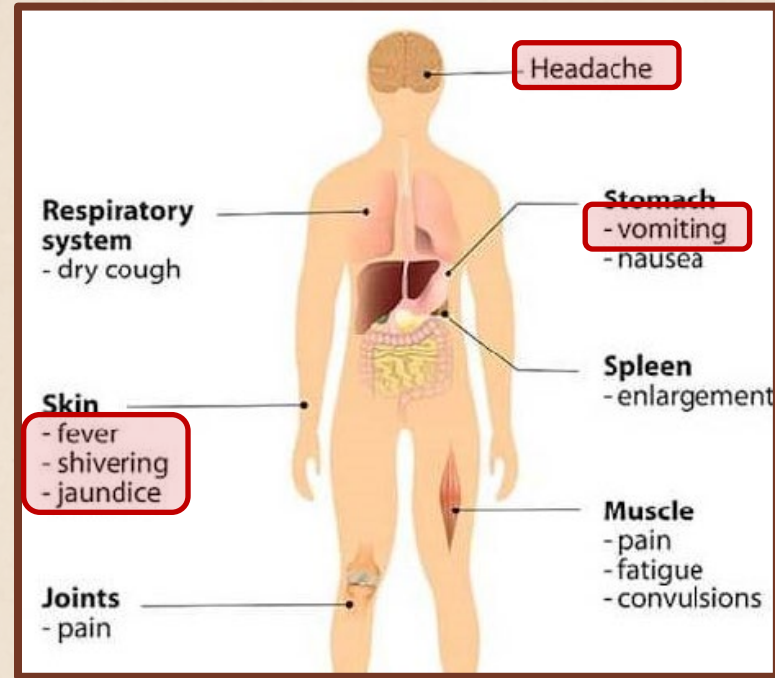
Seen by primary care provider, noted to have
thrombocytopenia with elevated LFTs
Sent to the emergency department



Patient Case

Emergency Department Labs

Temperature	100.4 °F
RBC, Hgb	3.77, 11.2
WBC	4
Lymphocytes	0.7
Platelets	16,000
LFTs	AST: 238 ALT: 96 Total bilirubin: 12.7



Malaria Smear

Positive for Plasmodium malariae!!

% Parasitized

1.0 ▲

Patient Risk Assessment



WHO

- Age
- Comorbidities



WHAT

- Reason for trip
- Length of stay
- Anticipated exposures



WHEN

- Departure season



WHERE

- Destination country
- Climate
- Rural vs urban



Malaria Chemoprophylaxis Options

Agent	Dosing	Timing Considerations
Atovaquone-proguanil	250/100 mg PO daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start: 1 to 2 days prior to exposure• Discontinue: 7 days after returning
Chloroquine	500 mg PO once weekly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start: 1 to 2 weeks prior to exposure• Discontinue: 4 weeks after returning
Doxycycline	100 mg PO daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start: 1 to 2 days prior to exposure• Discontinue: 4 weeks after returning
Mefloquine	250 mg PO once weekly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start: ≥ 2 weeks prior to exposure• Discontinue: 4 weeks after returning
Primaquine <i>Off-label</i>	30 mg PO daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start: 1 to 2 days prior to exposure• Discontinue: 7 days after returning
Tafenoquine	200 mg PO daily x3 days → 200 mg PO once weekly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start: loading dose 3 days prior to exposure, weekly dose starts 7 days after loading doses• Discontinue: 4 weeks after returning





Patient Population Considerations

Pregnancy & Lactation

- Atovaquone-proguanil: CI in pregnancy and lactation
- Primaquine, Tafenoquine: CI in pregnancy and for breastfeeding mothers with a G6PD deficient infant

Children

- Atovaquone-proguanil: CI children <5 kg
- Doxycycline: CI <8 years old
- Tafenoquine: CI in children

Comorbidities

- Mefloquine: CI in seizure, psychiatric, or cardiac conduction disorders
- Tafenoquine: CI in psychiatric disorders (including depression & anxiety)
- Atovaquone-proguanil: CI CrCl <30 mL/min



Adverse Drug Reaction Considerations

Required G6PD Screening

- Chloroquine
- Primaquine
- Tafenoquine

Gastrointestinal Side Effects

- Atovaquone-proguanil: abdominal pain, nausea
- Chloroquine: nausea, diarrhea
- Doxycycline: diarrhea, esophageal injury
- Mefloquine: vomiting

QT Prolongation

- Chloroquine
- Primaquine



Agent-Specific Adverse Reactions

Doxycycline

- Photosensitivity

Mefloquine

- BBW neuropsychiatric effects
- Abnormal dreams & insomnia
- Vision disturbance
- Seizures
- Cardiac arrhythmias

Tafenoquine

- Psychosis
- Methemoglobinemia
- Epithelial keratopathy

Patient Preference Considerations

Initiation

Last minute options:

- Atovaquone-proguanil
- Doxycycline
- Primaquine
- Tafenoquine

Frequency

Once weekly dosing:

- Chloroquine
- Mefloquine
- Tafenoquine

Administration

Food not Required:

- Chloroquine
- Doxycycline
- Primaquine

Drug Interactions

Atovaquone-proguanil

- Cimetidine
- Fluvoxamine
- Metoclopramide
- Rifabutin
- Tetracycline
- Warfarin

Chloroquine

- Ampicillin
- Antacids
- Calcineurin inhibitors
- Cimetidine
- Ciprofloxacin
- CYP2D6 substrates
- CYP3A4 inhibitors
- Digoxin
- Kaolin
- Methotrexate
- QT-prolonging agents

Doxycycline

- Antacids
- Bismuth subsalicylate
- Barbiturates
- Calcineurin inhibitors
- Carbamazepine
- Iron
- mTOR inhibitors
- Penicillin
- Phenytoin
- Warfarin

Mefloquine

- Antiarrhythmic agents
- Anticonvulsants
- Beta blockers
- Calcineurin inhibitors
- Calcium channel blockers
- CYP3A4 inducers
- CYP3A4 inhibitors
- H1 receptor antagonists
- Lumefantrine
- mTOR inhibitors
- Phenothiazines
- Protease inhibitors
- Tricyclic antidepressants

Drug Interactions

Atovaquone-proguanil

- Cimetidine
- Fluvoxamine
- Metoclopramide
- Rifabutin
- Tetracycline
- Warfarin

Chloroquine

- Ampicillin
- Antacids
- Calcineurin inhibitors
- Cimetidine
- Ciprofloxacin
- Cyclosporine
- CYP3A4 inducers
- Digoxin
- Kaolin
- Methyldopa
- QT-prolonging drugs

Doxycycline

- Allopurinol
- Aspirin
- Salicylic acid
- Subsalicylate
- Tetracycline
- Tricyclic antidepressants

Mefloquine

- Antiarrhythmic agents
- Anticonvulsants
- Beta blockers
- Calcineurin inhibitors
- Calcium channel blockers
- CYP3A4 inducers
- CYP3A4 inhibitors
- H1 receptor antagonists
- Lumefantrine
- mTOR inhibitors
- Phenothiazines
- Protease inhibitors
- Tricyclic antidepressants

**Check for
drug-drug
interactions!
!**

Assessment Question #1

Case:

A 36-year-old man plans a trip to Cambodia. He has a history of depression treated with sertraline.

Question:

Which malaria prophylactic should be avoided?

- A. Doxycycline
- B. Mefloquine
- C. Atovaquone-proguanil
- D. Chloroquine



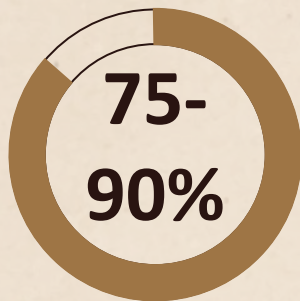


03

Infectious Diarrhea

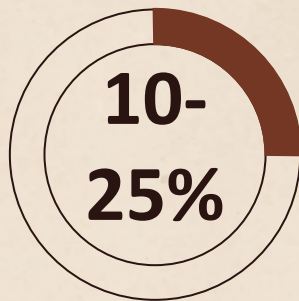


Travelers' Diarrhea



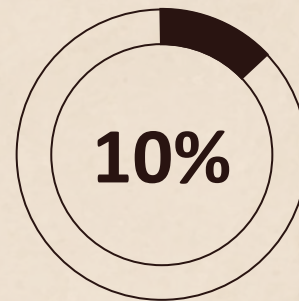
Bacteria

Enterotoxigenic E. coli
Campylobacter jejuni
Shigella spp.
Salmonella spp.
Aeromonas spp.
Plesiomonas spp.



Viruses

Norovirus
Astrovirus
Sapovirus
Rotavirus



Protozoa

Giardia
Cryptosporidium
Entamoeba histolytica
Dientamoeba fragilis
*Cyclospora**



Travelers' Diarrhea: Packing for Prevention

Bismuth subsalicylate

- Reduces incidence by 50%
- Generally not recommended age <12



Probiotics

- *Lactobacillus GG*
- *Saccharomyces boulardii*
- Insufficient data to recommend use

Rifaximin

- Only indicated in short term, high-risk hosts
- 200 mg by mouth 1-3 times daily x3 days

Prophylactic antibiotics are no longer recommended based on risk vs benefit analysis



Travelers' Diarrhea: Standby Treatment

Mild diarrhea: Symptomatic relief only

Moderate diarrhea:
Loperamide monotherapy \pm antibiotic

Severe diarrhea: Loperamide + antibiotic

Symptomatic Relief

Loperamide
Bismuth subsalicylate

Antibiotics

Azithromycin
Fluoroquinolone
Rifamycin
Rifaximin



Travelers' Diarrhea: Standby Treatment

JOURNAL ARTICLE EDITOR'S CHOICE

Trial Evaluating Ambulatory Therapy of Travelers' Diarrhea (TrEAT TD) Study: A Randomized Controlled Trial Comparing 3 Single-Dose Antibiotic Regimens With Loperamide FREE

Mark S Riddle ✉, Patrick Connor, Jamie Fraser, Chad K Porter, Brett Swierczewski, Emma J Hutley, Brook Danboise, Mark P Simons, Christine Hulseberg, Tahaniyat Lalani ... [Show more](#)

[Author Notes](#)

Clinical Infectious Diseases, Volume 65, Issue 12, 15 December 2017, Pages 2008–2017, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/cix693>

Published: 23 September 2017 **Article history** ▼



Travelers' Diarrhea: Standby Treatment

Design

- Randomized, double-blind trial assessing loperamide + single dose antibiotics for acute watery travelers' diarrhea
- 4 countries: Afghanistan, Djibouti, Kenya, and Honduras
- US and UK service members deployed in 4 countries assigned to either:
 - 1) azithromycin 500 mg
 - 2) levofloxacin 500 mg
 - 3) rifaximin 1650 mg
- Primary outcome: clinical cure at 24 hours

Travelers' Diarrhea: Standby Treatment

Results

- **Safety:** No differences in post-dose nausea, vomiting, or other adverse events between groups
- **Conclusion:** Single-dose azithromycin, levofloxacin, and rifaximin with loperamide were comparable for treatment of acute watery diarrhea

Clinical Cure at 24 hours	
Levofloxacin	81.4%
Azithromycin	78.3%
Rifaximin	74.8%

Travelers' Diarrhea: Standby Treatment



Antibiotic	Dosing Regimen(s)
Azithromycin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1000 mg given via single or divided dose for up to 3 days• 500 mg daily x3 days
Ciprofloxacin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 750 mg x1 dose• 500 mg BID x3 days
Levofloxacin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 500 mg daily for up to 3 days
Rifamycin SV	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 388 mg BID x3 days
Rifaximin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 200 mg TID x3 days



Assessment Question #2

Case:

A 32-year-old man plans a 3-week trip to Kenya for a safari. He has no chronic health conditions. He asks about malaria prevention and what to do if he develops diarrhea while traveling. He leaves for Kenya in 5 days.

Question:

Which of the following is an appropriate combination of prophylaxis and empiric self-treatment?

- A. Doxycycline for malaria prophylaxis and ciprofloxacin for traveler's diarrhea
- B. Mefloquine for malaria prophylaxis and azithromycin for traveler's diarrhea
- C. Atovaquone-proguanil for malaria prophylaxis and azithromycin for traveler's diarrhea
- D. Primaquine for malaria prophylaxis and rifaximin for traveler's diarrhea





04

Travel Immunizations





Routine Pre-Travel Vaccinations





Vaccines to Update & Consider

COVID-19

Haemophilus influenzae type B

Hepatitis A & Hepatitis B

Measles, Mumps, & Rubella

Meningococcal disease
(serogroups A, C, W, & Y)

Pneumococcal

Poliovirus

Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis

Respiratory syncytial virus

Varicella

Zoster

Influenza

Hepatitis A

Transmission: Contaminated food and water

Vaccination: 2 doses administered ≥ 6 months apart

Considerations: At least 1 dose should be given prior to travel

Meningococcal Disease



Etiology: *Neisseria meningitidis*

Transmission: Respiratory secretions

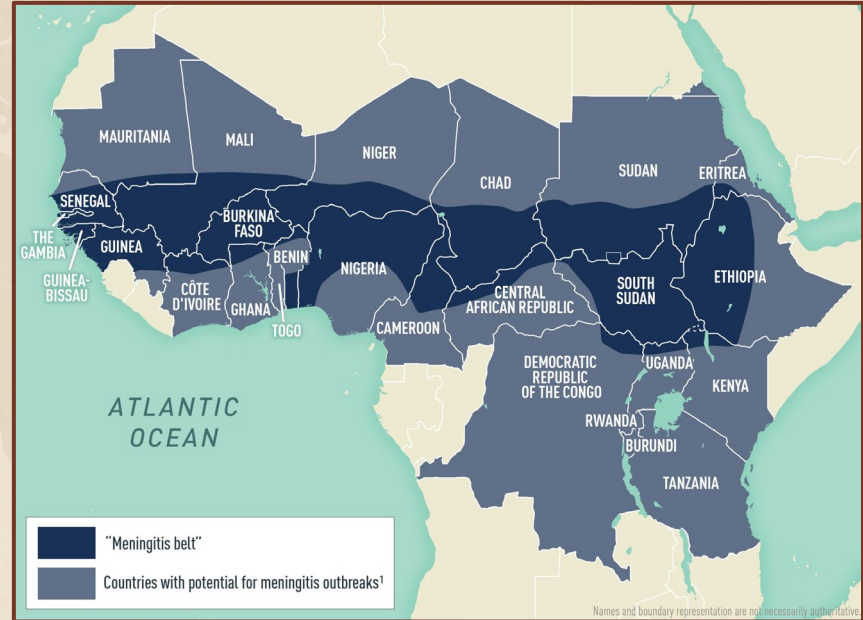
Vaccination: If 5 or more years have passed since the most recent MenACWY vaccine, a booster dose is recommended at least 7–10 days before travel to hyperendemic countries

The Meningitis Belt

Meningococci are classified into 12 serogroups based on the structure of the polysaccharide capsule

Serogroups A, C, W, and X are historically responsible for outbreaks in the meningitis belt

Serogroup B disease is extremely rare in the meningitis belt





Destination-Specific Travel Vaccinations



Patient Risk Assessment



WHO

- Age
- Comorbidities



WHAT

- Reason for trip
- Length of stay
- Anticipated exposures



WHEN

- Departure season



WHERE

- Destination country
- Climate
- Rural vs urban



Chikungunya Fever

Etiology: Enveloped, RNA arbovirus from the *Togaviridae* family

Transmission: *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquito bites

Symptoms: High fevers, arthralgia, maculopapular rash, headache, myalgia



Chikungunya Fever

- **Vaccination:** single-dose vaccine; live-attenuated (IXCHIQ) or virus-like particle (VIMKUNYA) vaccine
- **Recommendation:** All travelers going to an outbreak area; may be considered for travelers going to an elevated risk area ≥ 6 months
- **Considerations:**
 - Hospitalizations, cardiac events, and neurologic events have been reported with the live vaccine (IXCHIQ)

Current Outbreak Areas

- Bangladesh
- Cuba
- Guangdong Province, China
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Somalia
- Sri Lanka

Elevated Risk Areas

- Brazil
- Colombia
- India
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Thailand



Chikungunya Vaccine (VIMKUNYA):

Phase 3 trial safety data in ≥ 65 -year-old patients

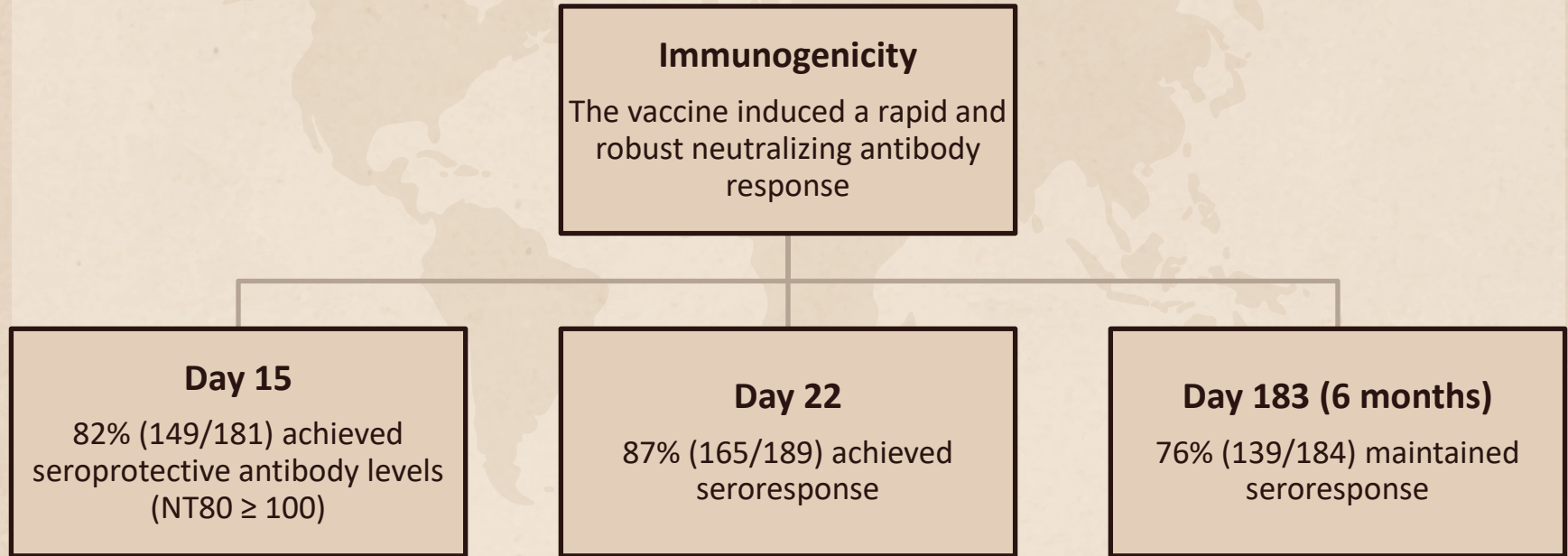
No vaccine-related serious adverse events or deaths were reported during the 6-month follow up period

Post-authorization surveillance also found no serious adverse events in ≥ 65 -year-olds after more than 12,500 doses administered

Data supports a favorable safety profile for the Chikungunya virus-like particle vaccine in elderly adults

Chikungunya Vaccine (VIMKUNYA):

Phase 3 trial efficacy data in ≥ 65 -year-old patients

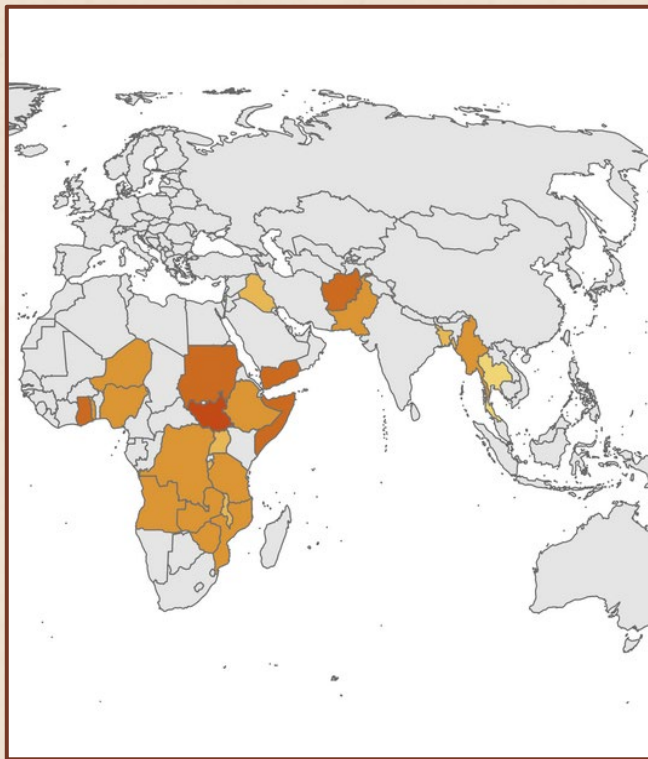


Cholera

Etiology: *Vibrio cholerae* toxin

Transmission: Contaminated food and water

Symptoms: Severe, dehydrating watery diarrhea which resembles rice water. Can rapidly progress to hypovolemic shock in a few hours



Cholera

- **Vaccination:** single-dose oral vaccine (CVD 103-HgR); live, attenuated
- **Recommendation:** individuals aged 2-64 years old who are traveling to areas of active cholera transmission
- **Considerations:**
 - Must be administered ≥ 10 days before travel

Japanese Encephalitis

Etiology: The Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is a single-stranded RNA arbovirus from the *Flaviviridae* family

Transmission: Bites from *Culex* mosquito species

Symptoms: Fever, headache, vomiting → disorientation, weakness, coma, and seizures



Japanese Encephalitis

- **Vaccination:** 2-dose vaccine with booster dose at 1 year if ongoing exposure
- **Recommendations:**
 - Frequent or long-term travel (≥ 1 month) to an endemic area
 - Short-term travelers to an endemic area if during transmission season, the itinerary includes substantial outdoor time, or accommodations do not include air-conditioning, bed nets, or screens
- **Considerations:** complete series ≥ 1 week prior to travel



Tick-borne Encephalitis

Etiology: The tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBE) is a single-stranded RNA arbovirus from the *Flaviviridae* family

Transmission: *Ixodes persulcatus*, *Ixodes ricinus*, and *Ixodes ovatus* tick bites or ingesting unpasteurized dairy products from infected animals

Symptoms: Fever, headache, vomiting, and weakness initially, followed by confusion, loss of coordination, difficulty speaking, weakness of the extremities, and seizures



Tick-borne Encephalitis

- **Vaccination:** 3-dose series with booster dose at 3 years if ongoing exposure; inactivated, whole-virus vaccine
- **Recommendation:** travel to an endemic area + extensive outdoor activities
- **Considerations:**
 - Two vaccine formulations: children (1-15 years) and adults (≥ 16 years)



Typhoid Fever

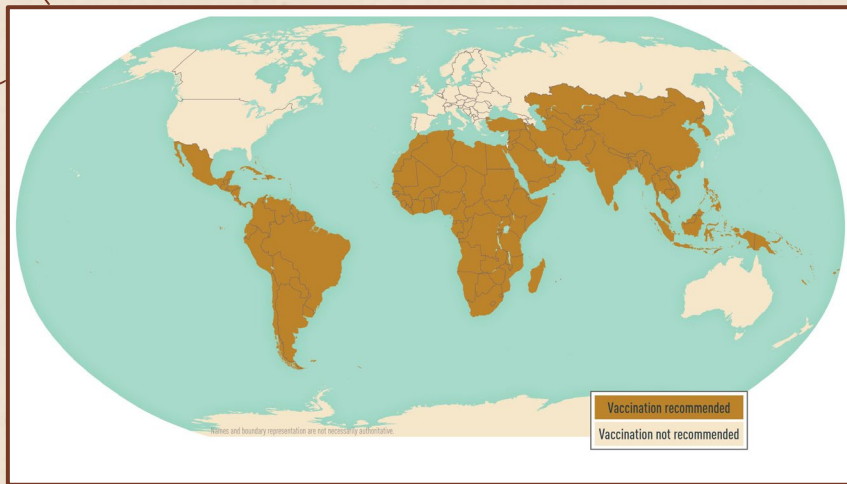
Etiology: *Salmonella enterica* Typhi and Paratyphi serotypes

Transmission: Contaminated food and water

Symptoms: Gradual onset of fever with fatigue, anorexia, headache, malaise, abdominal pain, and diarrhea; can progress to sepsis or intestinal perforation



Typhoid Fever



- **Vaccination:** Intramuscular Vi polysaccharide vaccine (≥ 2 years old) or oral live, attenuated Ty21a vaccine (≥ 6 years old)
 - 43% efficacy with the oral vaccine, 61% with the intramuscular vaccine
- **Recommendation:** travel to endemic area
- **Considerations:**
 - IM: Administer ≥ 2 weeks before travel; booster dose every 2 years
 - PO: Complete 4 doses of oral vaccine (taken every other day) ≥ 10 days before travel; booster every 5 years

Yellow Fever

Etiology: The yellow fever virus is a single-stranded RNA arbovirus from the *Flaviviridae* family

Transmission: Bites from infected *Aedes* or *Haemagogus* species mosquitoes

Symptoms: fever, chills, severe headache, myalgia, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, weakness → jaundice, bleeding, and shock

Yellow Fever

- **Vaccination:** single-dose; live, attenuated
- **Recommendation:** travel to endemic area
- **Considerations:**
 - Administer ≥ 10 days before planned arrival per international requirements
 - Travelers should carry proof of vaccination (yellow card) for countries requiring yellow fever vaccination for entry



Assessment Question #3

Case:

A 45-year-old man is traveling to Brazil for a 10-day eco-tourism trip in the Amazon basin. He has received standard adult vaccinations and reports a tetanus booster 6 years ago.

Question:

Which additional vaccine should be administered prior to travel based on destination-specific recommendations?

- A. Yellow fever
- B. Japanese encephalitis
- C. Rabies
- D. Cholera





Pre-travel Vaccination Scenarios



Pregnant Travelers

Routine live vaccines are contraindicated

- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)
- Varicella

Destination-based vaccines may be used if benefit outweighs risk due to limited data

- Cholera
- Japanese encephalitis
- Typhoid (intramuscular formulation)
- Yellow fever

Appropriate Vaccine Spacing



Most vaccines can be given at the same visit at separate injection sites



Administering multiple vaccines does not impair antibody response or increase rates of adverse reactions



There is no max number of vaccines a patient may receive at a single visit

Appropriate Vaccine Spacing



Live vaccines may be given simultaneously

If live vaccines are not administered on the same day, they should be separated by ≥ 4 weeks to avoid impaired immune response and reduced vaccine efficacy

If multiple live vaccines are not separated by ≥ 4 weeks, vaccines other than the original vaccine administered should be repeated



Appropriate Vaccine Spacing

Limited data shows
reduced immunogenicity
with co-administration
of **yellow fever** and
MMR live vaccines

If feasible, separate
administration of yellow
fever and MMR vaccines
by 4 weeks

Appropriate Vaccine Spacing

Study	Design	Results				
Michel et al. <i>J vaccine</i> . 2015.	Compared the humoral response to yellow fever and measles in children vaccinated simultaneously or separated by 7-28 days, with the measles vaccine given first	284 children total <ul style="list-style-type: none">54 children vaccinated 7-28 days apart (test group)91.7% positive measles serology90.7% yellow fever antibodies				
Silva et al. <i>J vaccine</i> . 2011	Assessed immunogenicity of the yellow fever and MMR vaccines given either simultaneously or 30+ days apart in 12-month-old children	1769 children total; seroconversion rates: <table><tr><th>Simultaneous administration</th><th>30-day separation</th></tr><tr><td>90% rubella 70% yellow fever 61% mumps 98% measles</td><td>97% rubella 87% yellow fever 71% mumps 98% measles</td></tr></table>	Simultaneous administration	30-day separation	90% rubella 70% yellow fever 61% mumps 98% measles	97% rubella 87% yellow fever 71% mumps 98% measles
Simultaneous administration	30-day separation					
90% rubella 70% yellow fever 61% mumps 98% measles	97% rubella 87% yellow fever 71% mumps 98% measles					

Immunocompromised Travelers

Examples of travelers with
limited immune deficits
not requiring specialized
precautions

- **Cancer:** Last chemotherapy ≥ 3 months and malignancy in remission
- **CAR-T, HSCT:** ≥ 2 years post-transplant, not taking immunosuppressants, no ongoing malignancy, and no GVHD
- **Autoimmune disease:** Not receiving immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory drug therapy
- **Corticosteroids:** >1 month since high-dose (≥ 20 mg/day of prednisone or equivalent for ≥ 2 weeks) steroid use

Immunocompromised Travelers

Vaccines contraindicated
in severely
immunocompromised
individuals

- Chikungunya (IXCHIQ)
- Cholera
- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)
- Typhoid (live, attenuated)
- Varicella
- Yellow Fever

Last-Minute Traveler Vaccination



Single-dose Protection

- Hepatitis A
- Meningococcal ACWY
- Polio booster
- Typhoid
- Tetanus-diphtheria
- Cholera

Accelerated Schedules

- Japanese encephalitis (day 0, 7)
- Tick-borne encephalitis (day 0, 14)
- Hepatitis B (days 0, 7, 21)



Travel Vaccinations in Development

2025-2029

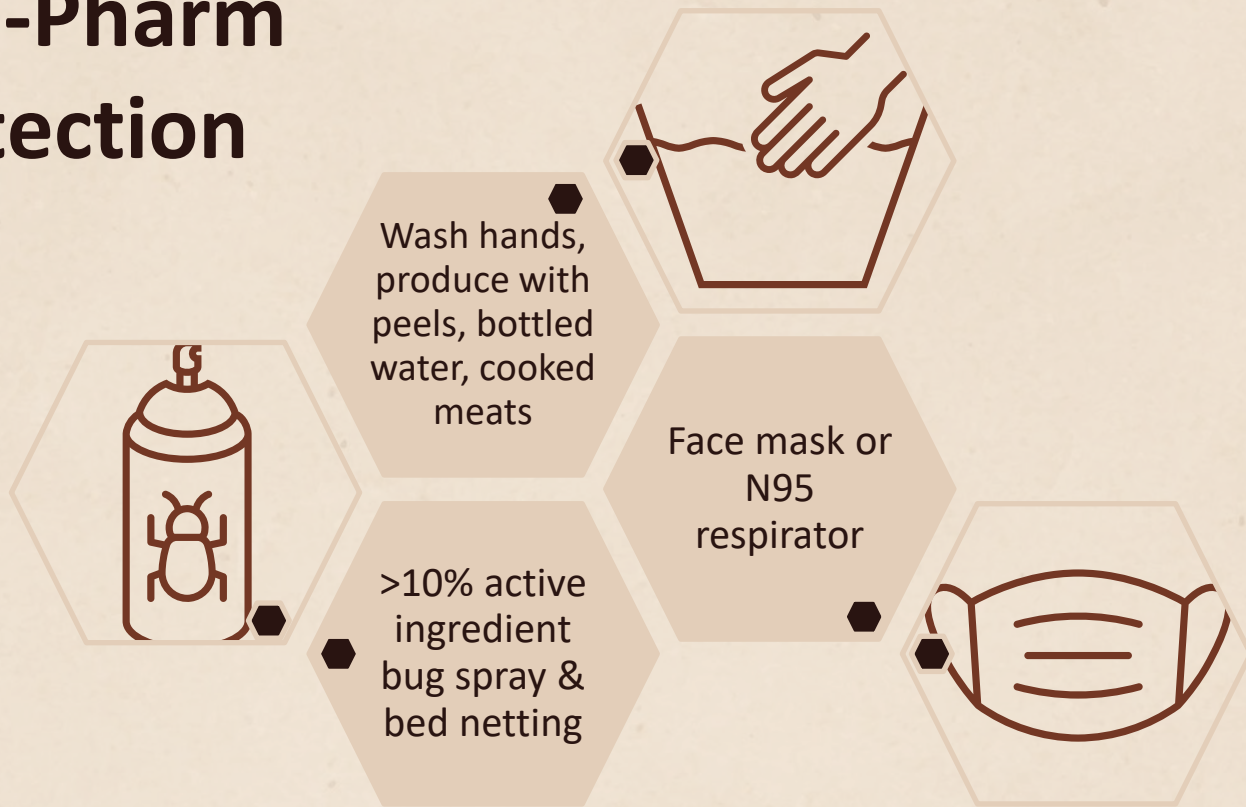
Norovirus
Shigella
Inactivated Rotovirus
Paratyphoid
Zika virus
Lyme
Enterotoxigenic *E. coli*

2030-2034

Vivax Malaria
Schistosomiasis
Hepatitis C Virus
Nontyphoidal salmonella



Non-Pharm Protection



Take-Home Points

- Travel medicine consultation is a valuable yet under-utilized resource.
- Travel medicine recommendations are provided in the CDC Yellow Book.
- Malaria chemoprophylaxis regimen choice is driven by safety, tolerability, interacting medications, comorbidities, and patient preferences.
- Antibiotics may be considered for moderate to severe travelers' diarrhea, with azithromycin being the first-line agent.
- Pre-travel vaccination recommendations are patient and location specific.



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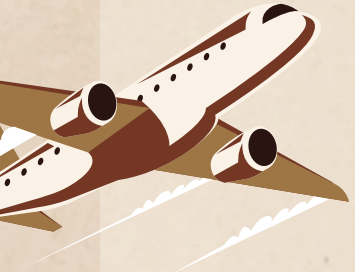




Questions?

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Travel Immunizations & Chemoprophylaxis:

Preventing Unwanted Infectious Souvenirs



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