

Health Information for Travelers to Dominican Republic Traveler View

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Vaccines and Medicines

Check the vaccines and medicines list and visit your doctor (ideally, 4-6 weeks) before your trip to get vaccines or medicines you may need.

Find Out Why

Protect Yourself

All travelers

You should be up to date on routine vaccinations while traveling to any destination. Some vaccines may also be required for travel.

[Routine vaccines](#)

Make sure you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.



Most travelers

Get travel vaccines and medicines because there is a risk of these diseases in the country you are visiting.






[Hepatitis A](#)

CDC recommends this vaccine because you can get hepatitis A through contaminated food or water in the Dominican Republic, regardless of where you are eating or staying.



Find Out Why

Protect Yourself

<u>Typhoid</u>	You can get typhoid through contaminated food or water in the Dominican Republic. CDC recommends this vaccine for most travelers, especially if you are staying with friends or relatives, visiting smaller cities or rural areas, or if you are an adventurous eater.	
Some travelers		
Ask your doctor what vaccines and medicines you need based on where you are going, how long you are staying, what you will be doing, and if you are traveling from a country other than the US.		
<u>Cholera</u>	CDC recommends this vaccine for adults who are traveling to areas of active cholera transmission. Areas of active cholera transmission include the provinces of Elías Piña, Espaillat, Independencia, Monseñor Nouel, and Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic (see map). Cholera is rare in travelers but can be severe. Certain factors may increase the risk of getting cholera or having severe disease (more information). Avoiding unsafe food and water and washing your hands can also prevent cholera.	
<u>Hepatitis B</u>	You can get hepatitis B through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products, so CDC recommends this vaccine if you might have sex with a new partner, get a tattoo or piercing, or have any medical procedures.	
<u>Malaria</u>	When traveling in the Dominican Republic, you should avoid mosquito bites to prevent malaria. You may need to take prescription medicine before, during, and after your trip to prevent malaria, depending on your travel plans, such as where you are going, when you are traveling, and if you are spending a lot of time outdoors or sleeping outside. Talk to your doctor about how you can prevent malaria while traveling. For more information on malaria in the Dominican Republic, see malaria in the Dominican Republic .	
<u>Rabies</u>	Rabies can be found in dogs, bats, and other mammals in the Dominican Republic, so CDC recommends this vaccine for the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travelers involved in outdoor and other activities (such as camping, hiking, biking, adventure travel, and caving) that put them at risk for animal bites.• People who will be working with or around animals (such as veterinarians, wildlife professionals, and researchers).• People who are taking long trips or moving to the Dominican Republic• Children, because they tend to play with animals, might not report bites, and are more likely to have animal bites on their head and neck.	

All travelers

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[Routine vaccines](#)



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Most travelers

Get travel vaccines and medicines because there is a risk of these diseases in the country you are visiting.

[Hepatitis A](#)



CDC recommends this vaccine because you can get hepatitis A through contaminated food or water in the Dominican Republic, regardless of where you are eating or staying.

[Typhoid](#)



You can get typhoid through contaminated food or water in the Dominican Republic. CDC recommends this vaccine for most travelers, especially if you are staying with friends or relatives, visiting smaller cities or rural areas, or if you are an adventurous eater.

Some travelers

Ask your doctor what vaccines and medicines you need based on where you are going, how long you are staying, what you will be doing, and if you are traveling from a country other than the US.

Cholera



CDC recommends this vaccine for adults who are traveling to areas of active cholera transmission. Areas of active cholera transmission include the provinces of Elías Piña, Espaillat, Independencia, Monseñor Nouel, and Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic ([see map](#)). Cholera is rare in travelers but can be severe. [Certain factors](#) may increase the risk of getting cholera or having severe disease ([more information](#)). Avoiding unsafe food and water and washing your hands can also prevent cholera.

Hepatitis B



You can get hepatitis B through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products, so CDC recommends this vaccine if you might have sex with a new partner, get a tattoo or piercing, or have any medical procedures.

Malaria



When traveling in the Dominican Republic, you should avoid mosquito bites to prevent malaria. You may need to take prescription medicine before, during, and after your trip to prevent malaria, depending on your travel plans, such as where you are going, when you are traveling, and if you are spending a lot of time outdoors or sleeping outside. Talk to your doctor about how you can prevent malaria while traveling. For more information on malaria in the Dominican Republic, see [malaria in the Dominican Republic](#).

Rabies



Rabies can be found in dogs, bats, and other mammals in the Dominican Republic, so CDC recommends this vaccine for the following groups:

- Travelers involved in outdoor and other activities (such as camping, hiking, biking, adventure travel, and caving) that put them at risk for animal bites.
- People who will be working with or around animals (such as veterinarians, wildlife professionals, and researchers).
- People who are taking long trips or moving to the Dominican Republic
- Children, because they tend to play with animals, might not report bites, and are more likely to have animal bites on their head and neck.

Key

Get vaccinated

Take antimalarial meds

Eat and drink safely

Prevent bug bites

Keep away from animals

Reduce your exposure to germs

Avoid sharing body fluids

Avoid non-sterile medical or cosmetic equipment

Note: Zika is a risk in the Dominican Republic. Zika infection during pregnancy can cause serious birth defects. Therefore, pregnant women should not travel to the Dominican Republic. Partners of pregnant women and couples planning pregnancy should know the [possible risks to pregnancy and take preventive steps](https://www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy/index.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy/index.html>) ([more information](#)).

Stay Healthy and Safe

Learn actions you can take to stay healthy and safe on your trip. Vaccines cannot protect you from many diseases in the Dominican Republic, so your behaviors are important.

Eat and drink safely

Prevent bug bites

Stay safe outdoors

Keep away from animals

Reduce your exposure to germs

Avoid sharing body fluids

Know how to get medical care while traveling

Select safe transportation

Maintain personal security

Healthy Travel Packing List

Use the [Healthy Travel Packing List for Dominican Republic](#) for a list of health-related items to consider packing for your trip. Talk to your doctor about which items are most important for you.

Why does CDC recommend packing these health-related items?

It's best to be prepared to prevent and treat common illnesses and injuries. Some supplies and medicines may be difficult to find at your destination, may have different names, or may have different ingredients than what you normally use.

Travel Health Notices

There are no notices currently in effect for Dominican Republic.

After Your Trip

If you are not feeling well after your trip, you may need to see a doctor. If you need help finding a travel medicine specialist, see [Find a Clinic](#). Be sure to tell your doctor about your travel, including where you went and what you did on your trip. Also tell your doctor if you were bitten or scratched by an animal while traveling.

If your doctor prescribed antimalarial medicine for your trip, keep taking the rest of your pills after you return home. If you stop taking your medicine too soon, you could still get sick.

Malaria is always a serious disease and may be a deadly illness. If you become ill with a fever either while traveling in a malaria-risk area or after you return home (for up to 1 year), you should seek **immediate** medical attention and should tell the doctor about your travel history.

For more information on what to do if you are sick after your trip, see [Getting Sick after Travel](#).

Map Disclaimer - The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on maps do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement are generally marked.

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Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/>)

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) (<https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/index.html>)

Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) (<https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dgmq/index.html>)