

Health Information for Travelers to South Korea Traveler View

Traveler View

Clinician View

On This Page

- [Vaccines and Medicines](#)
- [Stay Healthy and Safe](#)
- [Healthy Travel Packing List](#)
- [Travel Health Notices](#)
- [After Your Trip](#)



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 South Korea, 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 South Korea. 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>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>Japanese Encephalitis</u>	You may need this vaccine if your trip will last more than a month, depending on where you are going in South Korea and what time of year you are traveling. You should also consider this vaccine if you plan to visit rural areas in South Korea or will be spending a lot of time outdoors, even for trips shorter than a month. Your doctor can help you decide if this vaccine is right for you based on your travel plans. See more in-depth information on Japanese encephalitis in South Korea .	
<u>Malaria</u>	When traveling in South Korea, 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 South Korea, see malaria in South Korea .	
<u>Rabies</u>	Although rabies can be found in dogs, bats, and other mammals in South Korea, it is not a major risk to most travelers. CDC recommends this vaccine only for these groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travelers involved in outdoor and other activities in remote areas that put them at risk for animal bites (such as adventure travel and caving).• 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 remote areas in South Korea• 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

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 South Korea, regardless of where you are eating or staying.

[Typhoid](#)



You can get typhoid through contaminated food or water in South Korea. 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.

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.



Japanese Encephalitis

You may need this vaccine if your trip will last more than a month, depending on where you are going in South Korea and what time of year you are traveling. You should also consider this vaccine if you plan to visit rural areas in South Korea or will be spending a lot of time outdoors, even for trips shorter than a month. Your doctor can help you decide if this vaccine is right for you based on your travel plans. See more in-depth information on [Japanese encephalitis in South Korea](#).



Malaria

When traveling in South Korea, 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 South Korea, see [malaria in South Korea](#).



Rabies

Although rabies can be found in dogs, bats, and other mammals in South Korea, it is not a major risk to most travelers. CDC recommends this vaccine only for these groups:



- Travelers involved in outdoor and other activities in remote areas that put them at risk for animal bites (such as adventure travel and caving).
- 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 remote areas in South Korea
- 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

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 South Korea, 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 South Korea](#) 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 South Korea.

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.

Page last updated: April 10, 2018

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>)