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Health Information for Travelers to Dominican Republic

Traveler View



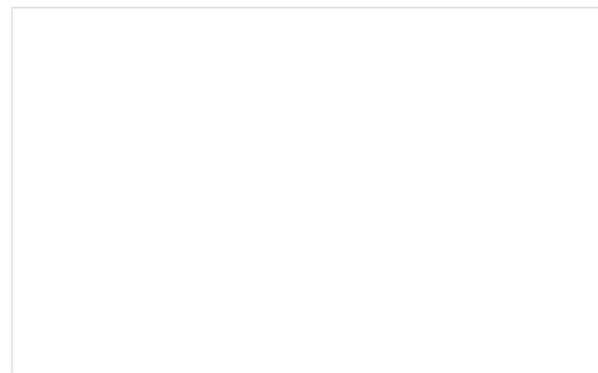
Outbreak alert: There is a [dengue](#) outbreak in Dominican Republic. Travelers should [prevent mosquito bites](#). ([more information](#))

There has been an increase in reports of dog and cat bites among travelers to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. These animals can have [rabies](#), which is nearly 100% fatal without timely and appropriate medical treatment.

- Be aware of the risk of rabies. Do not approach or try to pet dogs, cats, or other animals in the Dominican Republic. Animals can spread rabies before showing signs of being sick. Animals of any age (including puppies and kittens) can have the disease.
- If bitten or scratched, wash all wounds thoroughly with soap and running water and seek medical attention immediately.
- [Appropriate preventive treatment](#) for rabies is not always available in the Dominican Republic.
- Consider buying a [travel insurance policy](#) that will allow you to return to the United States early to get medical care, if needed.

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Vaccines and Medicines

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Check the vaccines and medicines list and visit your doctor at least a month before your trip to get vaccines or medicines you may need.

All travelers

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

[Measles](#)



- Infants (6 through 11 months old): 1 dose of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine before travel. This dose does not count as the first dose in the routine childhood vaccination series.
- People 12 months old or older, with no [evidence of immunity](#) or no written documentation of any doses: 2 doses of MMR vaccine before travel. The 2 doses must be given 28 days apart.
- People 12 months old or older who have written documentation of 1 dose and no other evidence of immunity: 1 additional dose before travel, at least 28 days after the previous dose.

[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.

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



There is no longer active cholera transmission, and vaccine is not recommended.

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. Areas of the Dominican Republic with risk of malaria: Primarily in the provinces by the border with Haiti, and the provinces (including resort areas) of Santo Domingo and La Altagracia. Rare locally transmitted cases in the city of Santo Domingo (Distrito Nacional) and other provinces. See more detailed information about [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.

Yellow Fever



A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for travelers aged ≥ 1 year arriving from the states of Minas Gerais, Espirito Santo, Sao Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, including transit for >12 hours in an airport in these states.

Note: Yellow fever vaccine availability in the United States is currently limited. If you need to be vaccinated before your trip, you may need to travel some distance and schedule your appointment well in advance. [Find](#)

[the clinic nearest you.](#)

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Stay Healthy and Safe

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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

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Prevent bug bites

[Show](#) 

Stay safe outdoors

[Show](#) 

Keep away from animals

[Show](#) 

Reduce your exposure to germs

[Show](#) 

Avoid sharing body fluids

[Show](#) 

Know how to get medical care while traveling

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Select safe transportation

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Maintain personal security

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Healthy Travel Packing List

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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.

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Travel Health Notices

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Be aware of current health issues in the Dominican Republic. Learn how to protect yourself.

Watch Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions

[Dengue in the Americas](#)

October 03, 2019

Dengue is a risk in many parts of Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Some countries are reporting increased numbers of cases of the disease. Travelers to the Americas can protect themselves by preventing mosquito bites.

[Global Measles Outbreak Notice](#)

June 10, 2019

Measles is in many countries and outbreaks of the disease are occurring around the world. Before you travel internationally, regardless of where you are going, make sure you are protected fully against measles.

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After Your Trip

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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](#).

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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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