

May 26, 2026

TN Health Alert Network Communication**Tennessee Department of Health Urges Vigilance for Travel-Related Illnesses During Peak Summer Season****Summary and Action Items**

As the summer travel season begins, the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) reminds clinicians to:

- Ensure travelers are up to date on routine immunizations before travel.
- Inquire about recent travel when a patient presents with illness.
- Inform public health about patients with a [Reportable Disease](#).

Background

Vacation and travel season is upon us in Tennessee! In addition to summer music festivals, sporting events, and fairs that occur each year, 2026 will also include FIFA's World Cup and American's 250th celebration, both of which are expected to bring an increase in domestic and international travelers throughout the country. Please keep travel in mind as you evaluate and counsel your patients.

Ensure travelers are up to date on routine immunizations before travel.

- At routine visits, ask your patients if they have any planned travel. Include questions about destination, trip length, and reason for travel.
- Make sure they are up-to date on all routine vaccines before their trip, especially the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.
- Depending on their planned destination, they may need additional travel vaccines or medications.
- Remind travelers about safety precautions against mosquito-borne illness, such as mosquito repellent and wearing protective clothing.
- For destination specific recommendations, search [CDC's Destination pages](#).

Inquire about recent travel when a patient presents with illness.

- Ask all patients about recent travel history, and whether they have attended any mass gathering events locally or elsewhere.
- Be alert for signs and symptoms of communicable diseases not typically seen in Tennessee, such as hemorrhagic fevers, malaria, dengue, and other vector-borne or vaccine-preventable illnesses or other diseases that may be seen outside of the normal season (e.g., flu).
- Review CDC's [Travel Health Notices](#) for latest advisories and recommendations related to global outbreaks. Especially concerning is the large and growing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. TDH is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with federal partners to appropriately screen and monitor any travelers returning from the affected areas.
 - CDC will host a Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call about Ebola Bundibugyo Virus this Thursday, May 28th from 2pm - 3pm ET. Registration is not required, [click here to join](#) a few minutes before the call.
- Be familiar with high consequence infectious disease risks and be prepared to identify, isolate, and inform TDH about suspect cases.
- Additional travel medicine information and resources is available in [CDC's Yellow Book](#).

Inform public health about patients with a [Reportable Disease](#).

- Familiarize yourself with the conditions that are [reportable in Tennessee](#).
- Call TDH immediately (615-741-7247) upon suspicion of any of the following conditions which include measles, any viral hemorrhagic fever, *Neisseria meningitidis*, or human rabies.

Thank you as always for your partnership. Further distribution of this message is welcome and encouraged. Have a safe and healthy summer!