

CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine



Accessible version: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dgmq/focus-areas/travelers-health.html>

Travelers' Health Branch

Who We Are

The mission of the Travelers' Health Branch (THB) is to prevent illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths among international travelers and to prevent the spread of communicable diseases to the United States by returning travelers.

What We Do

THB conducts public health surveillance and epidemiologic research to reduce the burden of travel-associated disease. THB responds to existing, new, and emerging public health threats affecting travelers, such as COVID-19, Zika, and Ebola while translating travel medicine science into actionable health information, recommendations, and educational products for travelers and healthcare professionals.

Where We Work

Our recommendations and public health guidance can be found at www.cdc.gov/travel, consistently one of the most visited CDC web pages. Our travel health guidance can also be found in the [CDC Yellow Book](#) and on digital media platforms including [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



How We Work Together

To respond to global public health threats, THB collaborates with federal, state, local, and international partners such as the Department of State, World Health Organization, and networks of U.S. and global travel health clinics.

We also work with disease experts across CDC and with academic and industry partners on key surveillance activities.

Program in Action

THB leverages data from multiple sources to understand disease trends among travelers.

The [Traveler-based Genomic Surveillance program \(TGS\)](#) provides an early warning system to detect new SARS-CoV-2 variants, monitor trends over time, and fill gaps in global disease detection. Since 2021, arriving international travelers have been volunteering to self-collect nasal swabs in several major U.S. airports. These samples are sent to a laboratory network for SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing; all positives undergo genomic sequencing. Data are reported through [CDC's COVID Data Tracker](#).

[GeoSentinel](#) is a surveillance and research network of 71 global travel and tropical medicine clinical sites. The rapid dissemination of clinically relevant data from GeoSentinel through the Network listserv and [ProMed](#) has been used to improve the health care of ill travelers and inform travel health policies. In 2022, GeoSentinel clinics identified the first cases of mpox in Europe, at the early stages of a [global outbreak](#).

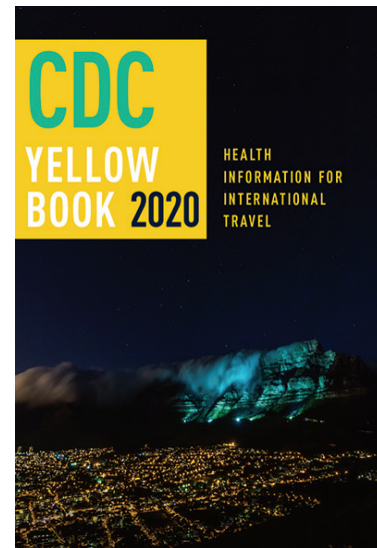
[Global Travelers' Epidemiology Network \(GTEN\)](#) is a consortium of clinical sites aimed at lessening illness among high-risk international travelers and reducing the likelihood of disease importation into the United States by collecting real-time data on pre-travel healthcare. GTEN's Heading Home Healthy program provides web tools and educational materials in multiple languages to travelers visiting friends and relatives and other often underserved travelers.

The program expanded in 2022 to include aircraft lavatory wastewater sampling. This can provide similar information about variants entering the country without directly involving travelers. TGS is a model of pathogen detection that can be used as an early warning system for pathogens beyond SARS-CoV-2.

THB publishes [Travel Health Notices](#) to alert travelers and clinicians about current health risks in destinations around the world and associated recommendations.

THB conducts yellow fever activities including monitoring yellow fever outbreaks worldwide, regulating ownership of yellow fever vaccine stamps (authorizing who may administer vaccine), maintaining the [U.S. Yellow Fever Vaccination Center Registry](#), and providing training for clinicians on [yellow fever vaccine](#).

THB publishes the [CDC Yellow Book: Health Information for International Travel](#), the premier medical reference for travel health professionals.



More Information

Travelers' Health Website: <https://www.cdc.gov/travel>

Travelers' Health Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CDCtravel>

Travelers' Health Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CDCTravelersHealth>



**Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention**
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cdc.gov/migrationhealth