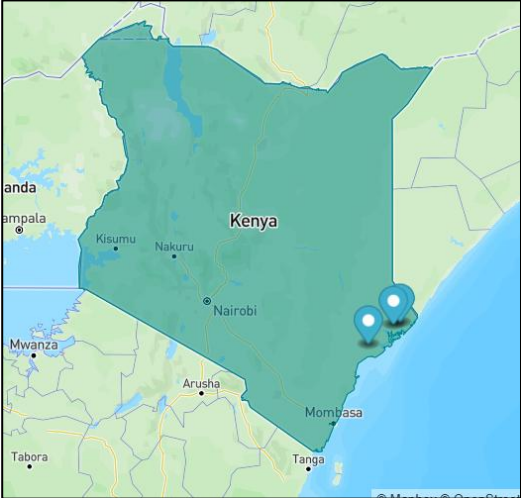


WORLDWIDE									
Type of news	New recommendations	Epidemiological news	Author: Olivia Veit						
<b>Title</b>	<b>Worldwide: Chikungunya risk - countries with outbreaks or elevated risk - update 22 April 2022</b>								
<b>Description</b>	<p>The US CDC has updated the areas at risk for chikungunya on 16 April 2026 (Cuba no longer outbreak country). In addition, the Swiss Expert Committee for Travel Medicine assessed the risk for Mauritius, Argentina and French Guinea, (red = changes compared to last update 10 March 2026):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Countries with <b>outbreaks</b>:</th> <th colspan="2">Countries considered to have an <b>elevated risk</b>:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bolivia</li> <li>• <b>Cuba</b></li> <li>• <b>Mauritius</b></li> <li>• Mayotte</li> <li>• Seychelles</li> <li>• Suriname</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Argentina</b></li> <li>• Brazil</li> <li>• <b>French Guinea</b></li> <li>• Colombia</li> <li>• <b>Cuba</b></li> <li>• India</li> <li>• Indonesia</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mexico</li> <li>• Nigeria</li> <li>• Pakistan</li> <li>• Peru</li> <li>• Philippines</li> <li>• Thailand</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Countries with <b>outbreaks</b> :	Countries considered to have an <b>elevated risk</b> :		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bolivia</li> <li>• <b>Cuba</b></li> <li>• <b>Mauritius</b></li> <li>• Mayotte</li> <li>• Seychelles</li> <li>• Suriname</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Argentina</b></li> <li>• Brazil</li> <li>• <b>French Guinea</b></li> <li>• Colombia</li> <li>• <b>Cuba</b></li> <li>• India</li> <li>• Indonesia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mexico</li> <li>• Nigeria</li> <li>• Pakistan</li> <li>• Peru</li> <li>• Philippines</li> <li>• Thailand</li> </ul>
Countries with <b>outbreaks</b> :	Countries considered to have an <b>elevated risk</b> :								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bolivia</li> <li>• <b>Cuba</b></li> <li>• <b>Mauritius</b></li> <li>• Mayotte</li> <li>• Seychelles</li> <li>• Suriname</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Argentina</b></li> <li>• Brazil</li> <li>• <b>French Guinea</b></li> <li>• Colombia</li> <li>• <b>Cuba</b></li> <li>• India</li> <li>• Indonesia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mexico</li> <li>• Nigeria</li> <li>• Pakistan</li> <li>• Peru</li> <li>• Philippines</li> <li>• Thailand</li> </ul>							
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	<p>In addition to optimal mosquito bite prevention, the Swiss ECTM recommendation include:</p> <p>Chikungunya vaccination is <b>recommended</b> for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Persons &gt;12 years of age travelling to an area with a <b>chikungunya outbreak</b></li> <li>✓ Laboratory workers who might be exposed to the virus.</li> </ul> <p>Chikungunya vaccination may be <b>considered</b> for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Persons &gt;12 years travelling or moving to an area <b>with elevated risk for chikungunya</b> if planning to <b>stay for an extended period of time or repeated stays</b> (for example, cumulative period of 3 months or more).</li> </ul> <p><b>Of note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Two chikungunya vaccines have been licensed in Europe but not yet in Switzerland.</li> <li>✓ Consultation with a travel or tropical medicine specialist is advised.</li> <li>✓ For details, see <a href="#">ECTM statement for chikungunya recommendation</a> or <a href="#">SOP</a>.</li> </ul>								
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">CDC, 16.4.2026</a>								
AFRICA									
Type of news	New recommendations	Epidemiological news	Author: Olivia Veit						
<b>Title</b>	<b>Africa, meningitis belt: Meningitis alerts and epidemics in week 14-15, 2026</b>								
<b>Description</b>	<p>According to WHO, in week 14 and 15, 2026 (30 March 12 April 2026): 17 out of 26 countries of the enhanced meningitis surveillance network shared their meningitis epidemiological data.</p> <p><b>Epidemics</b> (incidence <math>\geq 10/100'000</math> inhabitants):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chad</b>: Tandjile region, Ouaddai region</li> </ul> <p><b>Alert</b> (incidence <math>\geq 3</math> and <math>&lt;10/100'000</math> inhabitants):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Benin</b>: Alibori region, Zou region</li> <li>• <b>Central African Republic</b>: Region 3, 4, 6, 7</li> <li>• <b>D.R. Congo</b>: Maniema province, Sud-Ubangi province, Haut Lomami province, Sankuru province</li> <li>• <b>Niger</b>: Niamey region</li> </ul> <p>For previous epidemics and alerts, see news at <a href="http://www.healthytravel.ch">www.healthytravel.ch</a>.</p> <p><b>Pathogens identified in 2026</b> (for updates, see <a href="#">LINK</a>).</p>								

<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	<p>Vaccination with a quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menveo® or Menquadfi®) is recommended as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>During epidemics or alerts</b>, vaccination is recommended for stays &gt; 7 days or in the case of close contact with the local population.</li> </ul> <p>If <b>no alert or epidemic is reported</b>, vaccination is recommended for travel to the ‘meningitis belt’ <b>during the dry season</b> (typically occurring from December to June) across sub-Saharan Africa if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travelling for &gt;30 days or</li> <li>• For shorter stays, depending on the individual risk (e.g. close personal contacts, work in health care facilities, stay in heavily occupied accommodation, risk of epidemics).</li> </ul> <p>In addition, ensure all patients with an indication for pneumococcal vaccination are vaccinated according to the <a href="#">Swiss vaccination plan</a>.</p>
<b>References</b>	WHO meningitis bulletin, week 14-15, 2026   <a href="#">Meningitis Dashboard</a>

Type of news	New recommendations	<b>Epidemiological news</b>	Author: Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>Burundi: Undiagnosed illness</b>		
<b>Description</b>	<p>As of 11 April 2026, a total of 35 cases of an undiagnosed illness, including five deaths, have been reported in Mpanda district, in the north of Burundi. Symptoms include fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, blood in urine and fatigue. Some severe cases have also presented with anaemia and jaundice. Currently, laboratory testing is negative for Ebola and Marburg virus diseases, Rift Valley fever, yellow fever and Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever. Investigations are ongoing.</p>		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	Follow official and media reports. Avoid close contact with sick people. In case of symptoms, consult a doctor.		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">WHO, 11.4.2026</a>		

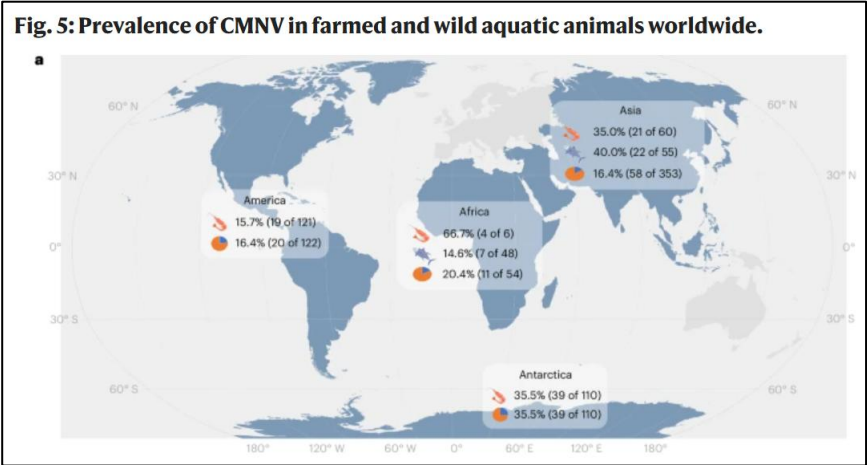
Type of news	New recommendations	<b>Epidemiological news</b>	Author: Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>Kenya: Undiagnosed febrile illnesses Lamu County</b>		
<b>Description</b>	<p>An unidentified flu-like illness has affected six villages in Boni Forest, Lamu County, Kenya, since March 2026, mainly impacting young children and the elderly. One suspected death has been reported. Symptoms include high fever, fatigue, coughing, mucus discharge and vomiting; malaria has been ruled out as the cause.</p>  <p>The map shows Kenya with major cities like Kisumu, Nakuru, Nairobi, Mombasa, and Lamu. Lamu County is highlighted in green and marked with a blue location pin on the coast.</p>		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	Follow official and media reports. Avoid close contact with sick people. In case of symptoms, consult a doctor.		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">Via BEACON, 21.4.2026</a>		

Type of news	<b>New recommendations</b>	<b>Epidemiological news</b>	Author: Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>Mauritius: Chikungunya outbreak</b>		
<b>Description</b>	Chikungunya is showing a strong increase, with 1'415 cases recorded since the beginning of the year, with a daily average of 50-40 infections. Currently, 148 cases are active. The current outbreak represents a resurgence of chikungunya transmission in Mauritius following the 2025 epidemic.		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	<p>The Swiss Expert Committee for Travel Medicine classifies Mauritius as a country experiencing a chikungunya outbreak.</p> <p><a href="#">Optimal mosquito protection 24/7</a>, also in cities, this also protects you against other mosquito-borne diseases.</p> <p><b>Vaccination</b> against chikungunya is recommended for stays in Mauritius, Vaccination against chikungunya is not licensed in Switzerland. For vaccination recommendations, see <a href="#">ECTM statement</a>.</p> <p><b>In case of fever:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure adequate hydration and apply paracetamol products.</li> </ul>		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">Lexpress, 19.4.2026</a>   <a href="#">BEACON, 1.4.2026</a>		

Type of news	<b>New recommendations</b>	<b>Epidemiological news</b>	Author: Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>South Sudan: Two cases of circulating vaccine-derived polio virus type 1 (cVDPV1)</b>		
<b>Description</b>	As of 20 April 2026, two cVDPV1 cases were reported from the Upper Nile region. Onset of paralysis in both cases was February 2026.		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	<p>South Sudan is currently classified as category 2. While the official IHR/WHO statement is still pending, South Sudan now formally falls under category 1 of the WHO's temporary poliomyelitis vaccination recommendations ("States infected with WPV1, cVDPV1 or cVDPV3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>For stays &gt;4 weeks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It should be ensured that at the time of departure from South Sudan, persons have received a booster vaccination against polio if their last vaccination was more than 12 months ago (documentation of the vaccination in the international yellow vaccination card).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>For stays &lt;4 weeks:</b> basic immunization and booster vaccination for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immunocompetent travellers &lt;65 years: every 20 years</li> <li>• Immunocompetent travellers ≥65 years: every 10 years travellers with</li> <li>• Travellers with immunodeficiency: every 10 years</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">Polioeradication, accessed, 22.4.2026</a>		

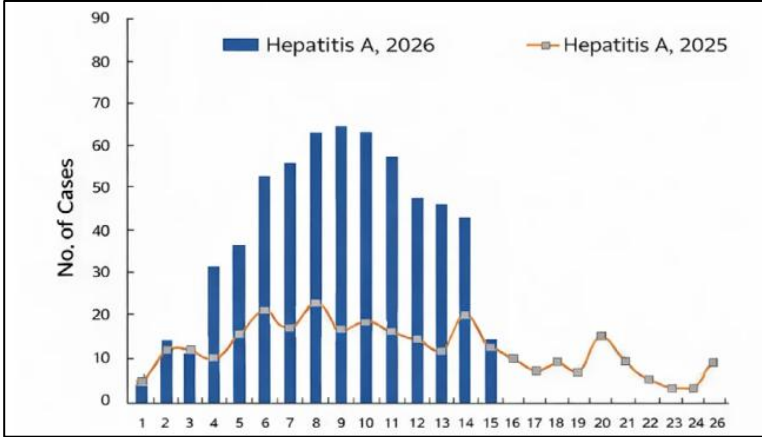
AMERICAS			
Type of news	New recommendations	Epidemiological news	Author: Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>Argentina, French Guiana, Suriname: Chikungunya situation - update</b>		
<b>Description</b>	<p><b>Argentina:</b> A sharp rise in chikungunya activity has been reported since February. Around 750 new locally acquired cases have been confirmed, with more than 5'500 suspected cases nationwide through week 14, marking a significant increase above average levels. Most cases are concentrated in the northwestern provinces of Salta, Tucumán, and Jujuy.</p> <p><b>French Guiana:</b> Since the first case of chikungunya was detected in late January 2026, 85 locally acquired cases have been reported (+20 cases within the past four weeks).</p> <p><b>Suriname:</b> Between 1 January and mid-March, 2'579 chikungunya virus disease cases have been reported of which 1'354 were confirmed. Since January 2026, one EU Member State also observed a marked increase in detections of chikungunya virus among returning travelers from Suriname and Paramaribo in particular.</p>		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	<p>Suriname is classified as countries experiencing a chikungunya outbreak; for Argentina and French Guiana, elevated transmission should be assumed.</p> <p><a href="#">Optimal mosquito protection 24/7</a>, also in cities, this also protects you against other mosquito-borne diseases.</p> <p><b>Vaccination</b> against chikungunya is recommended for stays in Suriname, it can be considered for Argentina and French Guiana. Vaccination against chikungunya is not licensed in Switzerland. For vaccination recommendations, see <a href="#">ECTM statement</a>.</p> <p><b>In case of fever:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get tested to rule out malaria</li> <li>• Ensure adequate hydration and apply paracetamol products.</li> </ul>		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">ECDC CDTR, 18.4.2026</a>   <a href="#">PAHO, Arbo portal, accessed 22.4.2026</a>		
Type of news	New recommendations	Epidemiological news	Author: Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>Bolivia: Yellow fever outbreak in Santa Cruz department</b>		
<b>Description</b>	At least six yellow fever cases, including three deaths, have been reported in Cordillera Province, Santa Cruz Department, Bolivia. Authorities have confirmed an outbreak with local transmission - the first documented in several years - while entomological surveillance is ongoing.		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	Vaccination against yellow fever is highly recommended for travellers visiting areas below 2500m elevation in Bolivia.		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">El Deber, 21.4.2026</a>		

Type of news	New recommendations	<b>Epidemiological news</b>	Author: Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>Bolivia: Significant increase in Zika virus infections</b>		
<b>Description</b>	As of 28 March 2026, Bolivia has reported 1'168 Zika cases since the start of the year, a sharp increase compared with 130 cases in the same period in 2025. This figure is already approaching the total of 1'224 cases recorded for the whole year 2025.		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	<p>Although the US CDC does not classify Bolivia as an area with an active Zika outbreak (see <a href="#">CDC Zika Travel Health Notices</a>), increased transmission in the country should be assumed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travelling in pregnancy poses an increased risk for the mother and the baby for mosquito-transmitted diseases. Please refer to the <a href="#">pregnancy factsheet</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Prevention:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always protect yourself from mosquito bites during the day and early evening, see factsheet <a href="#">mosquito-bite prevention</a>.</li> <li>• If traveling in an area with increased risk of Zika transmission – as it is in Bolivia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>If you are pregnant:</b> women at any stage of pregnancy should reconsider their travel plans. If travel is essential, consult a travel medicine specialist before departure.</li> <li>✓ <b>If your partner is pregnant:</b> use condoms throughout pregnancy to prevent possible sexual transmission of Zika.</li> <li>✓ <b>If you or your partner is planning to become pregnant:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use condoms throughout your trip and for at least two months after returning home to prevent possible sexual transmission of Zika without symptoms.</li> <li>• You should wait at least 2 months after returning from an area with an increased risk of Zika transmission before getting pregnant.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">PAHO, accessed 22.4.2026</a>		

ASIA																		
Type of news	New recommendations	<b>Epidemiological news</b>	Author: Olivia Veit															
Title	<b>China: An emerging human eye disease is associated with aquatic virus zoonotic infection</b>																	
Description	<p>A study published in <i>Nature Microbiology</i> has identified <b>covert mortality nodavirus (CMNV)</b>, an aquatic virus, known since 2009 in shrimp and fish, as being associated with persistent ocular hypertension with viral anterior uveitis (POH-VAU) in humans in China. The number of people in China presenting with POH-VAU has been increasing in recent years, with no clear explanation prior to this discovery. Clinical presentation includes recurrent anterior uveitis with persistent elevated intraocular pressure and anterior chamber inflammation.</p> <p>The findings provide the first evidence of zoonotic transmission of an aquatic virus to humans causing ocular disease.</p> <p><b>Fig. 5: Prevalence of CMNV in farmed and wild aquatic animals worldwide.</b></p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Data from Fig. 5: Prevalence of CMNV in farmed and wild aquatic animals worldwide.</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Region</th> <th>Prevalence (%)</th> <th>Number of Animals</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>America</td> <td>15.7%</td> <td>19 of 121</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Africa</td> <td>66.7%</td> <td>4 of 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asia</td> <td>35.0%</td> <td>21 of 60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Antarctica</td> <td>35.5%</td> <td>39 of 110</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Region	Prevalence (%)	Number of Animals	America	15.7%	19 of 121	Africa	66.7%	4 of 6	Asia	35.0%	21 of 60	Antarctica	35.5%	39 of 110
Region	Prevalence (%)	Number of Animals																
America	15.7%	19 of 121																
Africa	66.7%	4 of 6																
Asia	35.0%	21 of 60																
Antarctica	35.5%	39 of 110																
Consequences for travellers	<p>The prevalence of CMNV in aquatic animals across Asia, the Americas, Europe, Antarctica and Africa suggests that the risk of zoonotic transmission may be global.</p> <p>Precautions include avoiding direct contact with raw seafood, maintaining good hygiene when handling fish or shrimp, thoroughly cooking seafood, and using protective measures in aquaculture or seafood processing settings.</p>																	
References	<a href="#">Nature Microbiology, 26.3.2026</a>																	

Type of news	New recommendations	<b>Epidemiological news</b>	Author: Olivia Veit
Title	<b>Iraq: Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever cases</b>		
Description	<p>A cluster of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever has been reported in Dhi Qar, Iraq, with 9 confirmed cases and 2 deaths as of 12 April 2026. The outbreak is linked to livestock in urban areas, weak enforcement of grazing rules, waste buildup, and unregulated slaughter practices.</p>		
Consequences for travellers	<p>The risk of CCHF is low for the general population but higher for those exposed to tick bites. You can reduce your risk by taking the following precautions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply <b>DEET repellent</b> and wear long, permethrin-impregnated sleeves and socks to prevent tick bites.</li> <li>• <b>Check skin and clothes</b> for ticks and remove them promptly. <b>Workers handling animals</b> should wear gloves, protective clothing, use repellent on skin, and treat clothes with permethrin.</li> <li>• <b>Avoid contact</b> with blood or body fluids of sick animals or people. <b>Healthcare workers</b> must follow strict infection control precautions.</li> <li>• No vaccine is available and treatment options are not proven effective.</li> </ul>		
References	<a href="#">Via BEACON, 18.4.2026</a>		

Type of news	New recommendations	Epidemiological news	Author: Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>Maldives: Significant increase in dengue infections in 2026</b>		
<b>Description</b>	According to media, dengue cases have surged in the Maldives, with 535 reported in March 2026 compared to 60 in March 2025. February 2026 also saw a sharp rise to 428 cases, up from 76 the previous year. Health authorities link the increase to unusually high temperatures and the seasonal Iruvai Monsoon, which typically drives mosquito-borne transmission.		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	<p><b>Prevention:</b> <a href="#">Optimal mosquito protection 24/7</a>, also against other mosquito-borne disease.</p> <p><b>Vaccination:</b> The Swiss Expert Committee for Travel Medicine (ECTM) recommends Qdenga® vaccination only for travelers over 6 years who have previously had a dengue infection, see <a href="#">ECTM statement</a>.</p> <p><b>In case of fever:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure adequate hydration and apply paracetamol products for symptomatic treatment.</li> <li>• Avoid taking medications containing acetylsalicylic acid (e.g., Aspirin®), as this can increase the risk of bleeding during a dengue infection. However, do not stop taking medications containing acetylsalicylic acid if it is already part of your regular treatment for an underlying condition.</li> </ul>		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">The Edition, 13.4.2026</a>		

Type of news	New recommendations	Epidemiological news	Author: Olivia Veit																																																																																	
<b>Title</b>	<b>Thailand: Significant increase in hepatitis A cases</b>																																																																																			
<b>Description</b>	<p>According to media, citing the Disease Control Department, hepatitis A cases have doubled in 2026 compared to the same period in 2025, with the sharpest increases seen in Bangkok and eastern provinces, including Bangkok, Chon Buri, Rayong and Chanthaburi.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Estimated data from the Hepatitis A cases chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Day</th> <th>Hepatitis A, 2026 (Cases)</th> <th>Hepatitis A, 2025 (Cases)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>15</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>12</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>32</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>38</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>52</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>55</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>62</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>65</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>62</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>58</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>48</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>45</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>42</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>15</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>10</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>8</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>10</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>12</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>15</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>10</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>5</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>10</td><td>10</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Day	Hepatitis A, 2026 (Cases)	Hepatitis A, 2025 (Cases)	1	5	5	2	15	10	3	12	12	4	32	10	5	38	15	6	52	20	7	55	18	8	62	22	9	65	18	10	62	18	11	58	15	12	48	12	13	45	10	14	42	18	15	15	12	16	10	8	17	8	10	18	10	8	19	12	15	20	15	10	21	10	5	22	5	3	23	2	2	24	2	3	25	5	8	26	10	10
Day	Hepatitis A, 2026 (Cases)	Hepatitis A, 2025 (Cases)																																																																																		
1	5	5																																																																																		
2	15	10																																																																																		
3	12	12																																																																																		
4	32	10																																																																																		
5	38	15																																																																																		
6	52	20																																																																																		
7	55	18																																																																																		
8	62	22																																																																																		
9	65	18																																																																																		
10	62	18																																																																																		
11	58	15																																																																																		
12	48	12																																																																																		
13	45	10																																																																																		
14	42	18																																																																																		
15	15	12																																																																																		
16	10	8																																																																																		
17	8	10																																																																																		
18	10	8																																																																																		
19	12	15																																																																																		
20	15	10																																																																																		
21	10	5																																																																																		
22	5	3																																																																																		
23	2	2																																																																																		
24	2	3																																																																																		
25	5	8																																																																																		
26	10	10																																																																																		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	This is a reminder that vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for all travelers to Thailand.																																																																																			
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">The Opinion, 18.4.2026</a>   <a href="#">BEACON, 21.4.2026</a>																																																																																			

Type of news	New recommendations	Epidemiological news	Author: Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>Thailand: Melioidosis in 2026</b>		
<b>Description</b>	Thailand has reported 732 melioidosis cases and 23 deaths between 1 January and 16 April 2026, with the Northeast region identified as the main outbreak area. About 2'000 culture-confirmed melioidosis cases are reported annually in northeastern Thailand, though estimates suggest over 7,000 cases and about 2,800 deaths each year, indicating likely underdiagnosis and underreporting.		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	Avoid contact with soil/surface water, especially in the case of minor wounds. Skin injuries should be disinfected. Use protective clothing when wading through water. <b>Melioidosis</b> , caused by bacteria <i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i> , mainly affects people who have direct contact with contaminated soil and water, usually when people work barefoot or with bare hands during or after rain in muddy fields. Many patients contracting melioidosis have an underlying predisposing condition such as diabetes (most common risk factor), renal and liver disease, and others. Information on melioidosis: see <a href="#">CDC</a> .		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">Via BEACON, 20.4.2026</a>		

## OCEANIA

Type of news	New recommendations	Epidemiological news	Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>Australia: Significant increase in diphtheria cases</b>		
<b>Description</b>	The Western Australia Department of Health has issued a clinical alert after reporting 34 cases this year, with 29 cases concentrated in the Kimberley region. Both cutaneous and respiratory infections have been identified, with respiratory cases marking the first in over 50 years		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	In addition to completing basic immunization against diphtheria, persons traveling to or working in countries with diphtheria outbreaks should receive booster doses at 10-year intervals.		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">Via H-Radar, 22.4.2026</a>		

Type of news	New recommendations	Epidemiological news	Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>Tonga: Dengue outbreak declared</b>		
<b>Description</b>	Tonga has declared a dengue outbreak across Tongatapu, Ha'apai, and 'Eua as of 17 April 2026. Ongoing rain and adverse weather conditions are creating favorable breeding sites for <i>Aedes</i> mosquitoes. The 2025 outbreak was caused by DENV-2 and peaked with 793 confirmed cases between 19 Feb and 26 May 2025; the current circulating strain is not yet confirmed.		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	<p><b>Prevention:</b> <a href="#">Optimal mosquito protection 24/7</a>, also against other mosquito-borne disease.</p> <p><b>Vaccination:</b> The Swiss Expert Committee for Travel Medicine (ECTM) recommends Qdenga® vaccination only for travelers over 6 years of age who have previously had a dengue infection, see <a href="#">ECTM statement</a>.</p> <p><b>In case of fever:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure adequate hydration and apply paracetamol products for symptomatic treatment.</li> <li>• Avoid taking medications containing acetylsalicylic acid (e.g., Aspirin®), as this can increase the risk of bleeding during a dengue infection. However, do not stop taking medications containing acetylsalicylic acid if it is already part of your regular treatment for an underlying condition.</li> </ul>		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">Via BEACON, 16.4.2026</a>		

EUROPE			
Type of news	New recommendations	Epidemiological news	Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>France: Travel-associated Zika virus disease after staying in Indonesia</b>		
<b>Description</b>	<p>France reported a total of 11 travel associated ZIKV cases linked to Indonesia between July 2025 and March 2026, including four cases detected in early 2026. Most cases were associated with travel to Bali and neighboring islands. All cases were laboratory confirmed, and Asian lineage was identified in sequenced samples.</p> <p>Despite high and increasing travel volumes from Indonesia to the EU/EEA since 2022, no corresponding increase in imported ZIKV cases has been observed by other EU/EEA countries.</p>		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	<p>Zika is endemic in Indonesia. CDC does not classify Indonesia as an area with a current Zika outbreak (for outbreaks, see <a href="#">CDC Zika Travel Health Notices</a>).</p> <p><b>Prevention:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimal mosquito bite protection 24/7, also in cities (during the day against <a href="#">dengue</a>, <a href="#">chikungunya</a>, <a href="#">Zika</a> and other viruses, at dusk and at night against <a href="#">malaria</a>).</li> <li>• <b>Travellers, especially pregnant women or women who plan to become pregnant, should be aware of the ongoing Zika risk</b> in Indonesia and that Zika virus infection. Pregnancy (at any trimester) can cause fetal malformation as it is the case for other infections during pregnancy. For detailed ECTM recommendations on Zika, see <a href="#">LINK</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>In case of fever</b>, seek medical care. This is also important to rule out malaria which is endemic in Indonesia.</p>		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">ECDC CDTR, 18.4.2026</a>		
Type of news	New recommendations	Epidemiological news	Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>Germany: Salmonella Bochum outbreak linked to nut nougat cream</b>		
<b>Description</b>	<p>The Robert Koch-Institut reports 40 cases including one death of <i>Salmonella enterica</i> serovar Bochum infection since September 2025, mainly among children and adolescents and concentrated in eastern Germany - particularly Saxony - with a nut nougat cream (Nudossi) identified as the likely source.</p> <p>Three international cases linked to the outbreak strain were identified: two siblings from Austria living near the German border and one child from France who traveled to Germany before the onset of illness.</p> <div data-bbox="320 1417 911 2011" data-label="Figure"> <p>Abb. 2   Geografische Verteilung und Inzidenz von Ausbruchsfällen mit <i>Salmonella</i> Bochum in Deutschland: Anzahl der Ausbruchsfälle nach Stadt- bzw. Landkreis pro 100.000 Einwohner; Deutschland 2025/2026.</p> </div>		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	Although the product was recalled on 9 April 2026, further cases may occur due to continued consumption of recalled products. In case of symptoms: seek medical advice.		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">RKI EpiBul, 16.4.2026</a>		

Type of news	New recommendations	Epidemiological news	Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>United Kingdom: Travel-associated infections in 2025</b>		
<b>Description</b>	<p>The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has <a href="#">published their latest report</a> summarizing case numbers of selected travel-associated infections reported in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI) during 2025.</p> <p>The report showed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase in chikungunya with a total of 160 cases reported during 2025, compared with 112 in 2024. Most cases reported travel to Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh, reflecting ongoing outbreaks in the region.</li> <li>• 13 travel-associated cholera cases and an additional case in an individual who consumed water from an endemic country were reported in 2025. The main travel destination for cases were Pakistan, India and Ethiopia. This compares to nine cholera cases in 2024.</li> <li>• Oropouche virus disease was reported for the first time in EWNI during 2025. The three imported cases were all linked to travel to Brazil.</li> <li>• Reported cases of dengue decreased to 344 during 2025, down from 904 cases in 2024. India, Thailand and Indonesia were the most frequently reported travel destinations.</li> <li>• Seven cases of Zika virus disease were recorded in 2025 compared with 16 cases in 2024. India and Thailand were the most frequently reported destinations.</li> <li>• The number of returning travellers with rickettsial infections was 40 in 2025, compared to 44 in 2024, with most cases reporting travel to South Africa. No cases of Japanese encephalitis or yellow fever were reported in EWNI during 2025.</li> </ul> <p>UKHSA has also published separate provisional data on <a href="#">imported malaria cases in the UK</a> for 2025. This shows 1'629 cases of malaria were reported. This represents a decrease on imported cases in 2024 when 1'812 cases were recorded in provisional figures.</p>		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	For travel-medicine advice including vaccine-preventable disease, please consult: <a href="http://www.healthytravel.ch">www.healthytravel.ch</a> .		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">UK Health Security Agency – Travel associated infections - 26.3.2026</a>   <a href="#">UK Health Security Agency – imported malaria, 26.3.2026</a>		

Type of news	New recommendations	Epidemiological news	Olivia Veit
<b>Title</b>	<b>United Kingdom: New meningococcal B cluster in Weymouth, Dorset county</b>		
<b>Description</b>	<p>Three cases of meningitis B were confirmed in Weymouth, Dorset, England, between 20 Mar and 15 Apr 2026, affecting two young people attending Budmouth Academy and one case in Wey Valley Academy who is not epidemiological linked to the other.</p> <p>Laboratory testing confirmed all three cases involve the same MenB strain, distinct from the recent Canterbury, Kent outbreak (see <a href="#">EpiNews 26.3.2026</a>).</p> <p>The outbreak remains distinct from the Canterbury, Kent cluster in both scale and transmission dynamics, with no evidence of the rapid super-spreading pattern observed in that nightclub-associated event.</p> <p>A precautionary response includes antibiotics and MenB vaccination for about 5'000–7'000 secondary school-age students in the affected areas.</p>		
<b>Consequences for travellers</b>	<p>The risk for travellers up to date with meningitis vaccination visiting Dorset county is considered to be low.</p> <p>Travellers <b>visiting the UK</b> should be up to date with vaccinations according to national guidelines; for Switzerland see <a href="#">LINK</a> (catch-up vaccines against IMD are recommended up to 20th birthday regardless of travel!). Of note, in Switzerland, meningococcal vaccination is not reimbursed by basic health insurance after the age of 20 if not belonging to a risk group for IMD.</p> <p>Clinicians should be aware of the possibility of meningitis in returning travellers and include travel history in their assessment of IMD cases, particularly in relation to trips to England.</p>		
<b>References</b>	<a href="#">UK Health Security Agency, 17.4.2026</a>   <a href="#">GOV.UK – Latest update, 21.4.2026</a>		

The epidemiological news reflect the recommendations of the Swiss Expert committee for travel medicine (ECTM). The authors cannot be held responsible for the content.

This news **must not** be forwarded without the permission of the Swiss ECTM.