



## Travel Medicine Information for Countries in North *America* from [TRIPSETC.COM](http://TRIPSETC.COM)

### Vaccine and Immunization Information for Travelers to Countries in North *America*



#### General Health Information for Travelers to North America, including Canada, St. Pierre and Miquelon [France], United States [including Hawaii]

##### *Disease Risks, United States and Canada:*

In 1994, an international commission certified the eradication of endemic **Wild Poliovirus** from the Americas. Ongoing surveillance in formerly endemic Central and South American countries (Tropical and Sub Tropical) confirms that poliovirus transmission remains interrupted.

The incidence of communicable diseases is such that they are unlikely to prove a hazard for international travelers greater than that found in their own country. There are, of course, health risks, but in general, the precautions required are minimal.

Certain diseases occasionally occur, such as **Plague and Rabies** in wildlife, including bats, raccoons, foxes, and other wild animals. **Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Tularemia, arthropod-borne Encephalitis**, and seasonal outbreaks of **Influenza**. **Coccidioidomycosis** is endemic in southwestern United States and can occur in visitors to the area. **Histoplasmosis** is highly endemic, especially in the Mississippi, Ohio, and the St. Lawrence River valleys.

Rodent-borne Hantavirus **Pulmonary Syndrome** has been identified, predominantly in the western states of the United States. **Lyme Disease** is endemic in the northeastern United States, Mid-Atlantic, and the upper Midwest and the southwestern provinces of Canada. Occasional cases have been reported from the Pacific Northwest. Recently, cases of **West Nile virus** have occurred throughout

North America. During recent years, the incidence of certain foodborne diseases, e.g., **E. coli O157:H7** and **Salmonellosis**, has increased in some regions. Although the risk of **Hepatitis A** infection is considered low in the United States and Canada, outbreaks have occurred in some areas. Other hazards include **poisonous snakes**, **Poison Ivy**, and **Poison Oak**. In the north, a serious hazard is the very low temperature in the winter.

In the United States, proof of immunization against **Diphtheria, Measles, Poliomyelitis, and Rubella** is now universally required for entry into school. In addition, the school entry requirements of most states include immunization against **Tetanus** (49 states), **Pertussis** (44 states), **Mumps** (46 states), and **Hepatitis B** (26 states). **Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (HIB)** vaccine is not required for school entry but is required in 49 states for attendance in day care facilities. Because the incidence of reported **Hepatitis A** is substantially higher in 11 states, mostly in the west, some states now require hepatitis A vaccination for school or day care entry.

Isolated cases of **Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE/Mad Cow Disease)** have been reported in Canada and the United States.

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