

Travel Notice Definitions¹

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issue different types of notices for international travelers. As of May 20, 2004, these definitions have been refined to make the announcements more easily understood by travelers, health-care providers, and

the general public. The definitions are laid out in the table below. They describe both levels of risk for the traveler and recommended preventive measures to take at each level of risk. See possible travel notices for your destination at: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/notices.aspx>.

Type of Notice/ Level of Concern	Scope*	Risk for Travelers†	Preventive Measures	Example of Notice	Example of Recommended Measures
In the News	Reports of sporadic cases	No increased risk over baseline for travelers observing standard recommendations	Keeping travelers informed and reinforcing standard prevention recommendations<	Report of cases of dengue in Mexico, 2001	Reinforced standard recommendations for protection against insect bites
Outbreak Notice	Outbreak in limited geographic area or setting	Increased but definable and limited to specific settings	Reminders about standard and enhanced recommendations for the region	Outbreak of yellow fever in a state in Brazil in 2003	Reinforced enhanced recommendations, such as vaccination
Travel Health Precaution	Outbreak of greater scope affecting a larger geographic area	Increased in some settings, along with risk for spread to other areas	Specific precautions to reduce risk during the stay, and what to do before and after travel‡	Outbreak of avian influenza among poultry and humans in several countries in Southeast Asia in early 2004	Recommended specific precautions including avoiding areas with live poultry, such as live animal markets and poultry farms; ensuring poultry and eggs are thoroughly cooked; monitoring health
Travel Health Warning	Evidence that outbreak is expanding outside the area or populations initially affected	Increased because of evidence of transmission outside defined settings and/or inadequate containment measures	In addition to the specific precautions cited above, postpone nonessential travel‡	SARS outbreak in Asia in 2003	Recommended travelers to postpone nonessential travel because of level of risk

*The term “scope” incorporates the size, magnitude, and rapidity of spread of an outbreak.

†Risk for travelers is dependent on patterns of transmission, as well as severity of illness.

‡Preventive measures other than the standard advice for the region may be recommended depending on the circumstances (e.g., travelers may be requested to monitor their health for a certain period after their return, or arriving passengers may be screened at ports of entry).

¹CDC (2007). Travel notices [on-line]. Retrieved February 21, 2008. From <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/notices.aspx>.

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