



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ABOUT PAPUA NEW GUINEA VACCINATIONS

Papua New Guinea comprises the eastern half of New Guinea Island, the Bismarck Archipelago, the D'Entrecasteaux Islands, the Louisiade Archipelago, and the islands of Buka and Bougainville. The tropical climate makes way for cool and even cold weather, particularly in those regions over 3,500 masl. The capital Port Moresby receives little rain from June to September and temperatures are generally 1-2 degrees cooler.

OVERALL RISK

High Risk - Preventable disease is much more common than in Australia. Consult a Travelvax clinic for your specific risk.

MALARIA RISK

Malaria is present throughout country. Anti-malarial medications recommended. Type of malaria tablets will vary according to itinerary, length of stay and needs to be discussed with a medical practitioner.

VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES

YELLOW FEVER

A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for travellers aged 1 year or over arriving from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and for travellers having transited through an airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission.

No yellow fever certificate is required for direct travel from Australia or New Zealand.

COVID-19

For the most up to date requirements for entry into Australia, go to [Smartraveller](#).

Please click this [COVID-19 Travel Regulations Map](#) (IATA) to view the latest Papua New Guinea COVID travel requirements.

HEPATITIS A

Moderate risk to travellers, vaccination recommended.

HEPATITIS B

High presence of Hepatitis B in local population. Vaccination would be recommended. Consult a medical practitioner for your specific risk.

TYPHOID

Moderate risk for most travellers. Vaccination recommended for travel to smaller cities, villages and rural areas outside usual tourist routes. Some medical conditions pre-dispose to infection; whether vaccinations would be recommended should be discussed with a medical practitioner. Consult a medical practitioner for your specific risk.

INFLUENZA

Year round risk present. Most common vaccine preventable illness in travellers. Vaccine recommended, effective for 1 year.

RABIES

Disease present. Recommendation for vaccination will depend on specific itinerary and activities planned. Generally rabies vaccination is advised for high risk individuals such as veterinarians or animal handlers, cavers. Additionally for higher risk travellers who plan: extended periods outdoors, rural travel, adventurous activities including bicycling; also expats or long-term travellers to endemic regions and children (risk of more severe or risk-prone bites and may not report contact at all).

JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS

Disease present. Seasonal risk will vary by country. Whether vaccinations will be recommended will depend on itinerary, length of stay, type of travel etc and needs to be discussed with a medical practitioner. Risk is highest around pig farms and in agricultural areas. Mosquito avoidance measures are highly recommended all year round. Consult a medical practitioner for your specific risk, particularly if travelling during the wet season.

POLIO

No risk to travellers.

Additional information:

Following the detection of **vaccine-derived poliovirus** in 2018, PNG remains vulnerable to re-infection. It is recommended to ensure polio vaccinations are up to date. Consult with your travel health provider as to whether polio vaccinations or boosters are advisable for your itinerary.

TICKBORNE ENCEPHALITIS

No risk to travellers.

MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS

Low risk to travellers.

CHOLERA

Disease is present, however the risk is low for the majority of travellers. Peace corp, volunteers, refugee workers etc need to consider vaccination. All travellers should take food and water precautions. Consult a medical practitioner for your specific risk.

OTHER DISEASES

TRAVELLERS DIARRHOEA

Moderate risk. Travellers' Diarrhoea affects 20-60% of overseas travellers, food and water precautions are essential. Self-treatment medications may be recommended.

INSECT-BORNE DISEASES

Diseases such as [Dengue](#), [Chikungunya](#), [Zika](#) may be present. Seasonal risk will vary by country. Whether preventive measures will be recommended will depend on itinerary, length of stay, type of travel etc. and needs to be discussed with a medical practitioner. For those countries with disease present, risk is highest in urban and semi-urban areas, but may also occur in rural areas; [insect avoidance measures](#) are highly recommended all year round. Travelvax believes that the best defence is to understand their habits, dress properly and use an [effective insect repellent](#) in the correct manner. Consult a medical practitioner for your specific risk.

SCHISTOSOMIASIS

No risk to travellers.

STIs

Sexually transmitted and blood-borne diseases occur. The risk to travellers can be greatly reduced by practising safe sex with any new partner. All travellers should carry condoms. Blood borne diseases (HIV, Hepatitis B & C) can be spread by blood transfusion, tattooing, body piercing or non-sterile needles. Travellers in high risk groups should carry sterile needles (see also Medical Care).

ALTITUDE

Altitude illness is a risk to travellers ascending higher than 2000 meters. Preventative medication is available. Consult a medical practitioner if ascending to 2000 metres or above.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PERSONAL SAFETY

In order to check before and during travel for any high-risk areas visit the Smartraveller website. Avoid unnecessary displays of wealth or valuables and minimise the amounts of cash carried. Keep secure records of passport/credit card/licence numbers. For more safety tips visit: www.smartraveller.gov.au.

MEDICAL CARE

Comprehensive medical facilities available only in the major population centres and/or specific private clinics. Sterile surgical products (syringes/needles/sutures) are not always available. Check for any contacts supplied by your emergency assistance organisation (nominated by your travel insurer) or with IAMAT (International Association of Medical Assistance for Travellers).

FIRST AID KITS & ACCESSORIES

Always carry an [advanced first aid kit](#), including needles and syringes (shortages of sterile equipment are common). A prescription kit (containing treatments for travellers' diarrhoea) is essential. A [mosquito net](#) and [insect repellent](#) (containing DEET, Citriodiol or Picaridin) are highly recommended, even if anti-malarials are taken.

**More information on Papua New Guinea is available during your pre-travel consultation with Travelvax.
Call 1300 360 164 for the location of the clinic nearest to you.**