

Lebanon

Medical Summary

COVID-19

Total cases: 7,121

Daily new cases: 264 (7-day rolling average)

Daily new cases / million: 39

Total deaths: 87

Last case reported: 8/12/2020

Case trend: ↑ Increasing (based on the past 3 days' data or a 7-day rolling average)

COVID-19 Travel Restrictions

Ports of Entry/Exit

The land border with Syria is closed.

Entry Restrictions

Nationals and residents of Lebanon may enter.

Foreigners may enter.

Asymptomatic Arrivals

Nationals, residents, and foreigners arriving from any country are required to have a medical certificate issued within 4 days prior to arrival declaring that they are not infected with SARS-CoV-2, or they must undergo COVID-19 PCR testing upon arrival and quarantine upon arrival if coming from a country without COVID-19 PCR testing capability.

CDC Travel Recommendation

Avoid all non-essential travel.

General Information

Lebanon is a developing nation classified as upper middle income. Located in the Middle East along the Mediterranean Sea (north of Israel and west of Syria), the climate is classified as dry summer.

Travel Vaccinations

Hepatitis A

Recommended for: all travelers.

Typhoid fever

Recommended for: all travelers.

Influenza

Risk exists from November through April, with peak activity usually occurring from January through February, although off-season transmission can occur.

Recommended for: all travelers during transmission season due to demonstrated influenza risk in this group.

Travelers not already immunized with the currently available vaccine formulation should be vaccinated. Travelers immunized with the current formulation more than 6 months earlier should consider revaccination because immunity may have declined.

Consider baloxavir or oseltamivir as standby therapy, especially for those who are at high risk for complications from influenza or inadequately vaccinated.

Hepatitis B

Recommended for: all health care workers; travelers with possible contact with contaminated needles (e.g., from acupuncture, tattooing, or injection-drug use) or possible sexual contact with a new partner during the stay.

Travelers should observe safer-sex practices and blood/bodily fluid precautions.

Measles, mumps, rubella

Indicated for those born in 1957 or later (1970 or later in Canada and U.K.; 1966 or later in Australia) without evidence of immunity or of 2 countable doses of live vaccine at any time during their lives. Also indicated for those born before 1970 (in Canada) without evidence of immunity or previous vaccination with 1 countable dose of measles-containing vaccine.

Polio

Adult polio boosters are not recommended for travel to this country.

Non-IHR entry and exit requirements for proof of vaccination have been registered with WHO: Travelers arriving from and going to polio-affected countries require vaccination.

Rabies

Preexposure vaccination:

Significant risk from dogs exists throughout the country.

Recommended for prolonged stays: all travelers and expatriates, with a priority for young children.

Recommended for short stays: adventure travelers, hikers, cyclists, and cavers; travelers going to locations more than 24 hours' travel from a reliable source of human rabies immune globulin and rabies vaccine for postexposure treatment; animal workers (such as veterinarians and wildlife professionals); all travelers likely to have contact with bats.

Consider for: risk-averse travelers with short stays desiring maximum pretravel preparation.

Postexposure prophylaxis considerations:

Dog, other terrestrial mammal, and bat bites or scratches should be taken seriously, and postexposure prophylaxis should be sought even by those already vaccinated.

Routine Vaccinations

During the COVID-19 pandemic, routine vaccination of infants and young children aged ≤ 24 months is a top priority in the context of well-child care and should be prioritized when possible; vaccination of older children may still be conducted or postponed to a later date depending on community circumstances and resources.

Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis

Due to increasingly frequent pertussis outbreaks worldwide, all travelers should receive Tdap vaccine every 10 years, assuming they previously received an adequate primary series. Those who received Td or TT for their most recent booster should receive an immediate dose of Tdap, regardless of the interval since the last tetanus dose.

Pneumococcal

Recommended for adults aged ≥ 65 years and all adults with chronic disease or immunocompromising conditions.

Varicella

Indicated for all persons born outside the U.S. or born in the U.S. after 1979, except not indicated for persons with an adequate vaccination history (2 lifetime doses), reliable evidence of previous infection, or laboratory confirmation of immunity.

Malaria

No malaria present.

Travelers' Diarrhea

Moderate risk exists throughout the country, including in deluxe accommodations. Food and beverage precautions may reduce the likelihood of illness.

Travelers should carry loperamide for self-treatment of diarrhea and azithromycin to add if diarrhea is severe.

Current Safety Bulletins

Explosion in Beirut

Updated Aug 12, 2020 (Posted Aug 4, 2020)

On August 4, 2020, a large explosion caused by the unsafe storage of ammonium nitrate occurred in a warehouse district of the Port of Beirut. The explosion sent a shock wave into densely populated areas of central Beirut that caused widespread infrastructure damage (an estimated 300,000 people are now homeless), at least 200 casualties, and more than 5,000 injuries. More than 100 people remain missing. A state of emergency has been declared. Significant disruptions to transportation (including public transportation and road travel) should be expected. Beirut Rafic Hariri International Airport is operational. Travelers should avoid hospitals (which are overwhelmed), follow the advice of local authorities, carry a fully charged communication device, and monitor the situation through local media and embassy communications.

Widespread Violent Protests

Updated Aug 12, 2020 (Posted Jun 16, 2020)

Widespread, violent protests and civil unrest in response to the rapidly declining economic situation continue; unrest has been reported since October 2019 throughout the country (especially in Tripoli, Beirut, and other major cities). Further unrest is likely after the resignation of the government on August 10, 2020. Road closures; cash, food, fuel, and commodity shortages; transportation delays; and disruption to mobile and internet services should be expected. Extreme vigilance is recommended; bystanders are at risk of harm from violence or from the response by authorities. Reports indicate use of live ammunition by police. Travelers should avoid demonstrations, carry a fully charged communication device and sufficient cash, follow the advice of local authorities, and monitor the situation through local media and embassy communications.

Other Concerns

Marine hazards

Risk from jellyfish exists, including highly venomous *Carybdea marsupialis*, Portuguese man-of-war, mauve stinger, and nomad jellyfish. Travelers wading, launching boats, or fishing are especially at risk. Risk from sea urchins exists. Travelers should seek out and heed posted warnings and refrain from bathing at unmarked, unpatrolled beaches.

Schistosomiasis

Risk is presumed to be absent. Cases have not been reported since approximately 1985.

Leishmaniasis

Negligible risk of cutaneous disease exists throughout the country. Travelers should observe insect precautions from dusk to dawn.

Air pollution

Air quality may be variable throughout the year. Annual mean particulate matter concentrations are unhealthy in select cities.

Beirut: When air quality worsens, travelers should reduce prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion; those with lung disease or at the extremes of age should avoid prolonged or heavy outdoor exertion.

Brucellosis

Risk exists throughout the country. Travelers should avoid consumption of unpasteurized dairy products.

Snakebites

Risk of envenomation exists in areas with dense vegetation or rock formations (especially in warm weather when snakes tend to be more active). Most snakebites result from startling snakes; do not disturb or handle snakes. Boots and long pants are recommended in high-threat situations. Urgent medical care is indicated after any snakebite.

West Nile virus

Negligible risk may exist, but current epidemiologic data are unavailable.

Security

Consular Travel Warning: Due to ongoing violence and military conflict, Australia (DFAT) advises avoiding travel to areas within 5 km (3.1 mi) of the border with Syria; areas south of the Litani River (except for the city of Tyre); Palestinian refugee camps; northeastern Bekaa Valley (including the Baalbek-Hermel Governorate and the towns of Rayak, Aarsal, El Qaa, and Ras Baalbek); the neighborhoods of Jabal Mohsen and Bab-al-Tabbaneh in Tripoli. Australia (DFAT) advises reconsidering travel (or avoiding nonessential travel) to northern areas of the country between Tripoli and Dinniyeh and Laboue; the southern suburbs of Beirut (including west of the airport road). U.S. (DOS), U.K. (FCO), and Canada (GAC) have more limited warnings.

Key Security Threats: Terrorist attacks occur throughout the country, including Beirut. International organizations, areas frequented by tourists, and foreigners (especially Westerners) may be targeted. Kidnappings occur throughout the country, especially in the southern suburbs of Beirut (except along the main highway to Beirut-Rafic Hariri International Airport), northern Bekaa Valley, and areas bordering Syria, Israel, and Turkey; foreigners (especially Westerners) may be targeted. Violent crime and petty crime occur throughout the country. Additional threats to personal safety include armed conflict in areas bordering Israel and Syria (including as far south as Tripoli) and in refugee settlements; a dangerous security environment in northern areas of the country and in northeastern areas of Beqaa Valley; landmines in areas south of the Litani River and in areas bordering Syria. For more information, see Consular Advice.

Medical Care

Adequate medical care that meets most international standards is available in Beirut. Medical care throughout the rest of the country is inadequate and usually does not meet international standards. One or more JCI accredited hospitals are present in Beirut.

For a private ambulance in Beirut, call American University of Beirut Medical Center at [+961] 135-0000. For a Red Cross ambulance anywhere in the country, call 140. The national emergency number is 112.

A hyperbaric chamber for diving injuries is located in Jounieh.

Upfront payment by cash, up to the total of all anticipated charges, is generally required by hospitals catering to foreigners prior to services or treatment. Upfront payment of other than a modest deposit may be waived by hospitals that have existing cashless agreements with at least some major international insurance providers.

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Destinations content is continuously updated as new information becomes available.

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