Republic of the Congo

Medical Summary

The health risk information presented here is summarized from Shoreland Travax®, a decision-support tool used by health care providers to perform a detailed health risk analysis based on specific locations, individual travel styles, and traveler risk behaviors. Travax provides practitioners current, independently researched malaria risk and prevention recommendations in a map-based format that goes beyond the annual WHO and CDC statements included here. Not included here are current reports from Travax of disease outbreaks or environmental events that may pose elevated risks to travelers’ health and safety. The Providers section of this site offers a directory of health care providers who utilize Shoreland Travax for travel health counseling. Learn more about the detailed reports and maps available from these practitioners (includes links to samples).

General Information

Republic of the Congo is a developing nation in the lower half of the world’s economies. Located in central Africa along the Atlantic Ocean and bordered by the Democratic Republic of Congo, its climate is tropical with high temperatures and humidity.

Immunizations

Yellow Fever

- **Requirement:** A vaccination certificate is required for all travelers 9 months of age and older.
- **Official Status:** listed by WHO as a country where YF transmission risk is present.

Other Vaccines

Depending on your itinerary, your personal risk factors, and the length of your visit, your health care provider may offer you vaccination against cholera, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, rabies, or typhoid fever. Routine immunizations, such as those that prevent tetanus/diphtheria or "childhood" diseases, should be reviewed and updated as needed.

Malaria

The following is current information as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

**WHO—International Travel and Health (current online update, Country List)**

(2016) Malaria risk due predominantly to *P. falciparum* exists throughout the year in the whole country.

- Recommended prevention: **C** – Risk of *P. falciparum* malaria, in combination with reported chloroquine and sulfadoxine–pyrimethamine resistance. Mosquito bite prevention plus atovaquone-proguanil or doxycycline or mefloquine chemoprophylaxis (select according to reported side effects and contraindications) a
  aAlternatively, for travel to rural areas with low risk of malaria infection, mosquito bite prevention can be combined with stand–by emergency treatment (SBET).

WHO Country List footnote: When available, the date of the most recent update or confirmation is indicated in parentheses in the country list. If no date is indicated, the most recent update or confirmation was provided before 2013.

**CDC—Health Information for International Travel (current online edition)**

Areas with malaria: All.

- Estimated relative risk of malaria for US travelers: High.
- Drug resistance4: Chloroquine.
- Malaria species: *P. falciparum* 90%, *P. ovale* 5-10%, *P. vivax* rare.
- Recommended chemoprophylaxis: Atovaquone-proguanil, doxycycline, or mefloquine.

4 Refers to *P. falciparum* malaria unless otherwise noted.
Other Concerns

Travelers' Diarrhea
High 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, if risk is moderate to high, an antibiotic to add if diarrhea is severe. Consult a knowledgeable health care provider regarding which antibiotic is appropriate for you and most effective for your destination.

Insect- and Arthropod-Borne Diseases
African trypanosomiasis, chikungunya, loiasis and onchocerciasis may pose a risk. Personal protective measures are important.

Other Disease and Health Risks
Additional concerns include Ebola virus disease, marine hazards, schistosomiasis, sexually transmitted infections and tuberculosis.

Consular Advice

The material below includes information from the U.S. Department of State (DOS), U.K. Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), as well as from additional open-source material. Standard safety precautions that apply to all international travel can be found in the Library article Safety and Security.

Consular Travel Advice
Due to the presence of armed groups and ongoing security concerns, U.K. (FCO) advises against travel to Pool Department, except for Ngabe District, Mouyondzi District (Bouenza Department), and within 50 km (31 mi) of the border with Central African Republic, and nonessential travel to Brazzaville Department (except for Brazzaville) and Ngabe District (Pool Department). Canada (GAC) advises against nonessential travel to more limited areas. U.S. (DOS) and Australia (DFAT) have no current warnings.

Terrorism Risk
Low risk of attack by domestic and/or transnational terrorist groups exists throughout the country. Targets may include domestic and international organizations and businesses; public places and events, including those frequented by tourists; and transportation systems.

Crime
Risk of violent crime (armed robbery, sexual assault, and home invasion) and petty crime exists throughout the country, especially in Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire (beach areas).

Transportation Safety
Significant risk of traffic-related injury or death exists. The road-traffic death rate is > 24 per 100,000 population, the highest risk category. Carefully assess the safety of transportation options before any road travel. Speed laws are poorly enforced. Driving at night is not advised. Seek local advice before traveling on roads outside urban areas after dark.

Traffic flows on the right-hand side of the road. Travelers (including drivers and pedestrians) accustomed to traffic moving on the opposite side should be vigilant when navigating traffic.

Natural Disasters
The rainy season extends from September to June in the south. Some roads may become impassable during this period.

Consular Information

Selected Embassies or Consulates in Republic of Congo
- United States: [+242] 06-612-2000; brazzaville.usembassy.gov
Visa/HIV Testing

Visa applicants may need to meet specific requirements. Review the application and contact the appropriate embassy or consulate with questions. The U.S. Department of State is unaware of any HIV/AIDS entry restrictions for visitors to or foreign residents of Republic of the Congo.

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