

Foreign Animal Disease Veterinary Mission Liability Statement

I have read and understand requirements for travel to and from all countries that I will be visiting on this mission trip as contained in the following 2 pages of this document. Specifically, I have familiarized myself with

- Foreign Animal Diseases transmission risks between my home country and the countries I visit.

- Clinical presentations of these diseases and animal populations with high probability of carrying the disease

- Potential for carrying these diseases between regions or countries and precautions for avoiding this carriage including
 - sanitation prior to travel
 - abstaining from transporting banned agricultural products
 - self-quarantine upon return.

I understand that although guidance is provided as to information sources, I am the responsible party for confirming and enacting precautions against the spread of foreign animal diseases.

Traveler: _____ Date: _____

Traveling abroad for a veterinary mission.

Personal Travel Safety:

You have a responsibility to learn about travel requirements for the country(ies) you are visiting. Country-specific travel information is available at the Travel.State.Gov site (<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en.html>)

Planning for your personal health requires contacting your physician, local health department, or public agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control to obtain information on country-specific health challenges, vaccinations, and prophylactic medications. Travel health information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) can be found at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>.

At the CDC site, you can access the “Yellow Book”, which is published every two years. It is intended as a reference for those who advise international travelers, and may be accessed online through the CDC site. This access includes country specific vaccination and preventable disease information.

U.S. Travel Regulations:

A great resource for regulations for U.S. travelers from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection that will help plan and what you should take and can bring home is called “Know Before You Go.” <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/know-before-you-go>

Foreign Animal Diseases:

One of the definitive references on foreign animal diseases is the “Gray Book”, which may be accessed at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/emergency_response/downloads/nahems/fad.pdf. This document is published by the Committee on foreign and Emerging Diseases of the United States Animal Health Association. If this link is non-functional, search “USAHA Gray Book”. As of July 2013 the most recent version is dated 2008.

A list of USDA-recognized animal health status for foreign countries by disease may be accessed at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_disease_status.shtml.

Coming back:

You will also need to know requirements for returning to home Country (see U.S. Travel Regulations above). This information is vital to protect both your personal liability and also agriculture in your home country.

“How long should I wait to be around livestock in the U.S. once I return?”

A definitive scientific or regulatory standard for a self-imposed quarantine period upon return from a foreign country is not available. According to an April, 2007, Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) factsheet, “If you visited a farm or had any contact with livestock on your trip, you should avoid all contact with livestock, zoo animals, or wildlife for 5 days after your return to the United States.” This standard is cited in the factsheet “Protecting America from Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Other High-Consequence Livestock Diseases”, accessed 2-3-2012 at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2013/fs_fmd_hcd_protection.pdf.

Various other sources have suggested 7-10 days as a reasonable period. It appears that there is limited scientific evidence for specific periods beyond 5 days. We suggest a minimum of 5 days of no livestock contact when you have been in contact with livestock or farms in regions or countries with differing disease status. Some employers or institutions may have longer no contact times so it is good to confirm with them prior to travel. One of the main drivers of this requirement is the potential for carriage of Foot-and-Mouth disease in the nose and nasal passages. Therefore if you are working with livestock in regions with differing FMD status it is critical to adhere to these guidelines. IF you have further questions or concerns please contact an animal health official with FAD training. In the US these can be found by contacting one of the following resources.

Federal Area Offices Veterinarians. www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/

State Veterinarians. http://www.usaha.org/upload/STATE_ANIMAL_HEALTH_OFFICIALS.pdf

State Public Health Vets <http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/StatePublicHealthVeterinariansByState.pdf>

Mechanical removal of all debris from clothes and boots prior to travel is an absolute first step in preventing spread of foreign diseases to U.S. livestock. A good precautionary step would be to leave clothes and boots routinely worn around livestock in a foreign country in that country, especially if high-impact diseases such as foot and mouth disease were present in the livestock population in that country. We suggest you consider purchasing clothing and footwear appropriate for working with animals on the trip with the intention of donating them to local personnel upon leaving.

For any clothing or footwear brought back to the United States, washing should be completed prior to traveling. Footwear cleaning should be especially rigorous, with attention paid to making sure that absolutely no organic material remains. When you travel between countries you need to declare your exposure to livestock or farms on the Customs Declaration Forms and to have customs agents disinfect any footwear or equipment that might have had exposure.

“Close proximity to livestock” includes handling or touching livestock as well as being present in facilities that house livestock.