

Would you like to participate in a research study about highly drug-resistant organisms and international travel?

We invite you to participate in a research study that seeks to understand the risk of acquiring a highly drug-resistant organism in your intestine and/or on your skin during your upcoming international trip. Drug or antimicrobial resistance is the ability of organisms to resist the effects of drugs – that is, the germs are not killed, and their growth is not stopped. Recent studies suggest that many international travelers become colonized in their intestine or on their skin with highly-resistant organisms, even though they do not get sick.

In this study, we are trying to answer the following questions:

- why some travelers acquire highly-resistant organisms, and some do not.
- how long someone can remain colonized with highly-resistant organisms after returning to the U.S.
- whether the highly-resistant organisms can make a person sick.
- the likelihood that the highly-resistant organism can be spread to close household contacts after the traveler returns to the U.S.

If you participate in this study, you will

- Collect and mail in stool and/or armpit and groin swab samples using a pre-paid kit that we will provide to you - you will mail one set of samples before you leave and a second within two weeks of your return. If you acquire a highly-resistant organism, you will collect and mail in three additional samples at 3, 6 and 12 months after your return.
- Be contacted monthly for 1 week-12 months after you return from your trip. You will be asked about any illnesses you may have had. The duration of time you will be contacted will depend on whether you acquire a highly-resistant organism.
- If you acquire a highly-resistant organism and you are willing, we will also invite your household contacts to mail in stool and/or armpit and groin swab samples to see if the highly-resistant organism has spread within your household.

Compensation will be mailed to you when your sample(s) are received by the MGH lab!