

Pre-travel health service in Finland

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1. Background: Review on the available pre-travel health service in Finland

2. Materials and Methods: Websites of well-being services counties/areas and private actors on available travel health care since the cessation of national consulting service. Review of the travel information available for the population in Finland.

3. Results: At the beginning of 2025, the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) discontinued travel counselling and urged the public health sector to establish their own consultation levels for it. The review in early 2026 found that the service is very fragmented and fully available in only few public sector health sites. Out of the 23 well-being services counties websites, eleven have a special information site for travellers. Five counties use a preliminary information form that can be used to target counselling. Most of the counties recommend contacting the general vaccination helpline, which does not necessarily have the information suitable for travellers. Traveller's Health Guide (Matkailijan Terveysopas), which contains the national guidelines for travellers' health in several languages, was linked correctly to 10 of the sites. Nationally, around ten larger private actors offer either pre-travel advice, vaccinations or both, with a cost.

4. Conclusion: Travel health services should be organized in the public sector to reach those most in need, like home-visiting migrants. As a minimum, information on where and when to obtain the service in each county should be available. Traveller's Health Guide should be promoted as the most up-to-date travel health information for the public and professionals.