



24 August 2017

Valley Fever Concerns for Mexico

Amor is continually monitoring the regions in which we work for situations that could be of concern to our groups. Our desire is to proactively communicate when a situation arises that may affect our participants. Amor has regular contact with Mexican government officials and local community leaders to ensure accurate and timely information is presented and acted upon.

Though cases of the Valley Fever are extremely rare, the fungus causing the infection has been detected in the southwest region of the United States and in northern Mexico. Regarding symptoms, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states the following on its website (<https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/coccidioidomycosis/index.html>).

Symptoms generally include:

- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Cough
- Fever
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Night sweats
- Muscle aches or joint pain
- Rash on upper body or legs

Anyone who lives in or travels to the southwestern United States (Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, or Utah), or parts of Mexico or Central or South America can get Valley fever. Valley fever can affect people of any age, but it's most common in adults aged 60 and older. Certain groups of people may be at higher risk for developing the severe forms of Valley fever, such as:

- People who have weakened immune systems, for example, people who:
 - Have HIV/AIDS
 - Have had an organ transplant
 - Are taking medications such as corticosteroids or TNF-inhibitors
- Pregnant women
- People who have diabetes
- People who are Black or Filipino



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Amor is committed to providing a safe Impact Trip for you and your group. We will be updating our statement if any information changes. For up to date information in preparing for your trip, or should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 619-662-1200 or by email at missionservices@amor.org .

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