



NOVEMBER 2018: UPDATES FROM MEXICO'S BEACHES

With Fall travel and holiday season upon us, here's the latest from Mexico's world-famous beaches, which offer Pacific Coast waves and Caribbean tranquility.

Greetings from Mexico! *Here's the latest news and information on the state of Mexico's top beach destinations.*

Mexico's Pacific and Caribbean Beaches are Open for Business!
...and there's no seaweed / sargassum on any of Quintana Roo's Beaches

- Recent storms, including Hurricane Wilma on Mexico's Pacific Coast, certainly generated headlines; however, all operations are back to normal in Mazatlán, Puerto Vallarta, and points in between.
- As we stated last month, the beaches of Quintana Roo are also free of sargassum.

A Word on Cyclospora

There are no cases of cyclospora in Mexico's top beach destinations

The Quintana Roo Tourism Board is aware of the [Public Health England](#) and media reports regarding tourists contracting Cyclospora in the state of Quintana Roo, specifically the Riviera Maya and Cancun, and would like to update our industry partners on the situation.

An immediate investigation was conducted into this allegation when the Public Health report was first issued in August 2018. The State Health Services (SESA) and National Liaison Center of the International Health Regulations (CNE-RSI) investigation found that **the state of Quintana Roo has no record of any cases of Cyclospora in 2018.**

[There have been zero reported cases of Cyclospora in the northern zone, in Riviera Maya or any other case related to tourism.](#)

Quintana Roo is an undisputed leader at the national level in regards to hygiene and safe handling of food. Quintana Roo has 940 valid corporate quality marks, 590 of which correspond directly to hygienic food handling.

Media reports appear seasonally regarding Cyclospora. To be clear, there has never been any proof of widespread carelessness in food handling and safety in the state of Quintana Roo.

It is also clear that, unfortunately, there are a group of tourists and law firms who have conspired to make unsubstantiated claims in pursuit of financial gain. This has been frequently reported on in UK media as well (The *Guardian*, June 2018 - [Link](#))

The International Health Coordination and National Liaison Center work in close partnership to permanently monitor for certain diseases and prevent, protect, and control all visitors from any possible public health risks. This partnership:

Monitors and prepares a daily report of international public health issues.

Employs personnel at the four international points of

entry in the state of Quintana Roo.

Communicates any visitor health issues to personnel in the Cancun International Airport to expand awareness and detection.

Directly communicates with and receives information from any traveler with a disease who may have traveled to Quintana Roo.

Issues preventive travel notices by the Health Epidemiological Intelligence Unit at the Federal Ministry of Health.

Conducts weekly random sampling in food handling establishments throughout the state.

Randomly monthly samples of water quality including bacteriological sampling, verifications to supply systems, and sampling wastewater and freshwater.

Monitors monthly the beaches for any health issues.

Reports of Cyclospora cases globally are common each year in numerous countries around the world and it can be difficult to identify the source given the time it takes for symptoms to appear and several other factors. For example, there had been significant reporting earlier in 2018 in the U.S. on Cyclospora cases from U.S. grown produce, that has resulted in recalls and hundreds of individuals impacted.

Cyclospora is contracted by the oral ingestion of common produce, on which the bacteria may remain even after thorough washing. Individuals who contract Cyclospora may experience no or only mild symptoms, such as an upset stomach. Those who experience more significant symptoms typically see them pass within a matter of days or few weeks, sometimes with the assistance of antibiotics.

Due to the above factors and fact that there have been zero documented cases in Quintana Roo, there is no cause for concern for travelers and the industry.