



## Yellow Fever - General Information for Travelers

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name

travel destination

The yellow fever virus is found in tropical / subtropical areas of Africa and South America. The virus is spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito. Yellow fever is a very rare cause of illness in travelers. Illness ranges from a fever with aches and pains to severe liver disease with bleeding and yellowing skin (jaundice). The infection is diagnosed based on laboratory testing, symptoms, and travel history. There is no medicine to treat or cure infection. To prevent getting sick from yellow fever, use insect repellent, wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, and get vaccinated.

### Yellow Fever Vaccine

A safe and effective yellow fever vaccine has been available for more than 80 years.

- The vaccine is a live, weakened form of the virus.
- Vaccine is recommended for people aged 9 months or older and who are traveling to or living in areas at risk for yellow fever virus in Africa and South America.
- Yellow fever vaccine may be required for entry into certain countries.

### Booster doses of the vaccine

- Usually a single dose of yellow fever vaccine provides long-lasting protection and is adequate for most travelers. There are specific groups of travelers who should always receive additional doses such as pregnant women, persons after receiving a hematopoietic stem cell transplant, persons with HIV-infection or specific chronic diseases.
- For travelers who received a yellow fever vaccination at least 10 years previously and who will re-enter an area of risk, the Robert-Koch-Institut recommends a second dose for everybody (new recommendation of the "Stiko", August 2022).

### Increased risks for side effects

Some people may have an increased risk of a reactions to the vaccine, but may still benefit from being vaccinated:

- Between 6 and 8 months old
- Over 60 years old
- Pregnant women

A few people should NOT get the vaccine:

- Allergic to the vaccine or something in the vaccine (like eggs)
- Aged 6 months or younger
- Organ transplant recipients
- Diagnosed with a malignant tumor, with thymus disorder, with an immunodeficiency, using immunosuppressive and immunomodulatory therapies
- Showing symptoms of HIV infection or CD4+ T-lymphocytes less than 200/mm



People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting yellow fever vaccine.

## Yellow Fever Vaccine, Pregnancy, & Conception

Yellow fever vaccine has been given to many pregnant women without any apparent adverse effects on the fetus. However, it poses a theoretical risk. Pregnant women should avoid or postpone travel to an area where there is risk of yellow fever. If travel cannot be avoided, discuss vaccination with your doctor. A four week delay between yellow fever vaccination and conception is adequate. If, for some reason, a woman is vaccinated during pregnancy, she and her baby are unlikely to have any problems from the vaccine. Breastfeeding women should not get vaccinated.

## If vaccination is required to enter countries

- and you cannot get yellow fever vaccine for medical reasons, you need a written confirmation.
- You also can contact the embassies of countries you plan to visit for more information.

## Reactions to Yellow Fever Vaccine

Reactions to yellow fever vaccine are generally mild and include headaches, muscle aches and low-grade fevers.

Rarely, people develop severe, sometimes life-threatening reactions including:

- Allergic reaction, including difficulty breathing or swallowing (anaphylaxis)
- Swelling of the brain, spinal cord, or the surrounding tissues (encephalitis or meningitis) within 30 days after the vaccination, very rare (< 1 : 100,000)
- Guillain-Barré syndrome, an uncommon sickness of the nervous system in which a person's own immune system damages the nerve cells, causing muscle weakness and sometimes paralysis.
- Internal organ dysfunction or failure, within 10 days after the vaccination, very rare (< 1 : 100,000), possibly with fatal outcome

People 60 years and older, infants younger than 9 months and people with specific chronic diseases might be more likely to experience serious reactions to yellow fever vaccine.

A total of approximately 300 cases with these rare complications and occasional deaths have been registered in over 600 million vaccinated persons worldwide.

## Behaviour after vaccination

For the duration of 7 days or until possible reactions to the vaccine have subsided, you should not expose yourself to strong physical activity (e.g. competitive sports, planned operations, sauna) and avoid sunbathing and excessive alcohol consumption. You must not donate blood for 4 weeks after the vaccination.

I understood everything and have no further questions. I agree with the vaccination.

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signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
batch sticker

\_\_\_\_\_  
date and place

\_\_\_\_\_  
doctor's name / signature / stamp