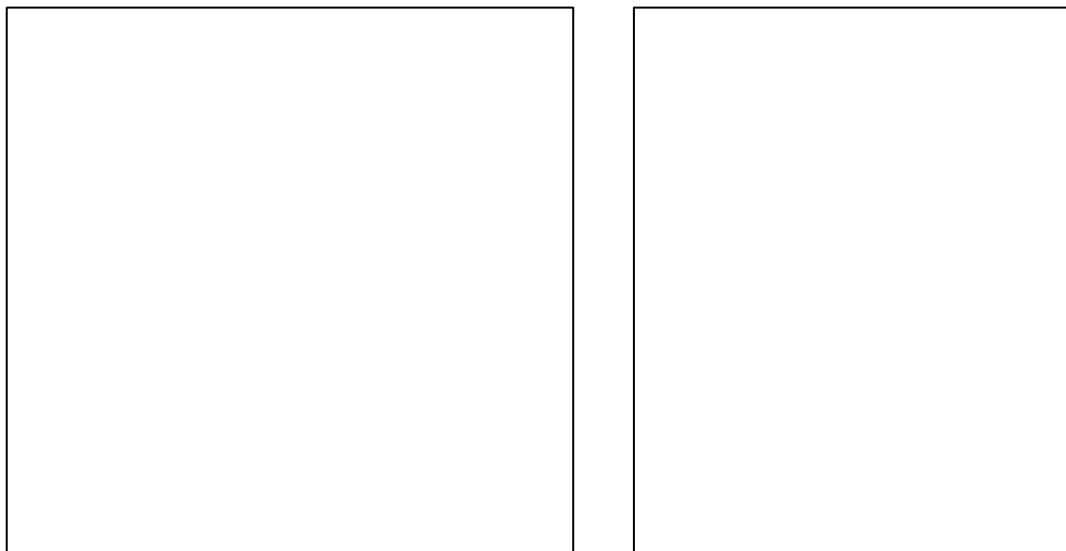


Traveller Information Sheets



Yellow Fever

Yellow fever is a disease that is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. It occurs only in certain regions Africa and South America (and Central America). Yellow fever affects humans as well as monkeys.



(Centres for disease control and prevention, 2011)

How is yellow fever spread?

The spread of yellow fever can occur in 3 different ways.

1. Sylvatic cycle: This is the transmission of the virus between nonhuman primates, such as monkeys, and mosquito species found in the forest canopy. The virus is transmitted by mosquitoes from monkeys to humans when humans enter into the jungle.
2. Intermediate cycle: This is the transmission of the virus from mosquitoes to humans living or working in jungle border areas. The virus can be transmitted from non human primates, such as monkeys, to human or from human to human via mosquitoes. This cycle only occurs in Africa.
3. Urban cycle: This is the transmission of the virus between humans and urban mosquitoes. An infected human (viraemic) brings the virus into the urban settling.

What are the symptoms of yellow fever?

Incubation is 3-6 days and the virus presents in either one or two phases;

1. Phase 1: travellers experience fever, muscle pain with prominent backache, headache, shivers, loss of appetite, and nausea or vomiting. This can resolve after 3 or so days.
2. Phase two: In about 15% of people, after initially resolving, the high fever can return. Jaundice develops and the patient can complain of abdominal pain with vomiting. Bleeding can occur from the mouth, nose, eyes or stomach and appears in the vomit and faeces. Kidney damage occurs and 50% of the patients in the second phase can die within 10 – 14 days. The remaining 50% recover.

Yellow fever vaccination and the International Certificate of Vaccination.

The 3 reasons for Yellow fever vaccination are;

1. To protect populations living in areas subject to endemic and epidemic disease
2. To protect travellers visiting these areas (entry requirement by some countries)
3. To prevent international spread by minimizing the risk of importation of the virus by infected (viraemic) travellers.

Australian requirements regarding yellow fever vaccination:

If travellers plan to stay overnight or longer in a yellow fever declared country, they must receive a yellow fever vaccination, as well as the International certificate of vaccination or prophylaxis. Ideally, this should occur before they enter into the yellow fever declared country, where they may be at risk of exposure to yellow fever mosquitoes, or at least, within six days before arriving in Australia.

Endemic countries requirements regarding yellow fever vaccination:

Some countries will refuse entry if travellers do not have proof of yellow fever vaccination. It is important to consult with a travel medicine professional 6-8 weeks before travelling.

Is there a vaccination for yellow fever?

Yes.

In Australia the vaccination 'Stamaril' is registered for travellers 9 months and older. The dose of yellow fever vaccine for children and adults is 0.5mL, to be given by either IM or SC injection.

The vaccination is not safe for some people to have; Infants < 9 months, pregnant women, women breastfeeding an infant <9 months, those with an altered immune status, or those with thymus disorders.

It is a precaution to vaccinate individuals over the age of 60, this will be discussed during your consultation.

Where can I get the vaccination against Yellow Fever?

Yellow fever vaccine can be administered only by Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres approved by the relevant state or territory health authorities. Each yellow fever vaccination is to be recorded in an International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis, with proof of valid yellow fever vaccine; the certificate must include the vaccinated person's name and signature (or the signature of a parent or guardian of a child), and the signature of a person approved by the relevant health authority. The date of the vaccination must be recorded in day-month-year sequence, with the month written in letters, and the official stamp provided by the state or territory health authority must be used. The certificate becomes valid 10 days after vaccination, and remains valid for 10 years.

Reference

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