



Yellow fever

Yellow fever (YF) vaccination may be recommended for protection of travellers to all countries in the endemic zones for YF, whether or not an international certificate is required under World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations.

The 17D strain virus yellow fever vaccine has been in use for more than 50 years and has an excellent safety profile. It has been estimated that 300-400 million doses of the vaccine have been administered worldwide.

Vaccine recommendations:

The vaccine induces a rapid immune response with 90% of recipients achieving protective levels of antibody within 10 days. Immunity following vaccination has been shown to be long lasting and possibly life long. However, International Health Regulations require re-vaccination at 10-year intervals if indicated, in order to retain a valid certificate and prevent the importation of yellow fever virus into susceptible countries.

Contraindications to Yellow Fever vaccination:

- Age five months and under
- Persons known to be hypersensitive to any component of the vaccine including anaphylaxis to egg protein
- Immunocompromised patients

Precautions:

- Infants aged 6 to 8 months
- Febrile illness
- HIV-infected individuals
- Pregnant women
- Breast feeding women
- Individuals age 60 years and older

Adverse Events:

Reactions to YF vaccine are usually mild and short lived. They include myalgia, headache, and low-grade fever, typically occur during the first 5-10 days post vaccination, and will affect 10-30% of recipients. Serious adverse events are rare and include allergic reactions and very rarely vaccine-associated neurological disease.