

YELLOW FEVER HEALTH INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS, 2013.

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NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, 424 STRUBEN ST, PRETORIA. 012 395 8518/8522, WWW.DOH.GOV.ZA



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Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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1. What is Yellow Fever?

Yellow Fever is a serious disease caused by the Yellow Fever virus. It is transmitted through bite of a specific female mosquito. It takes 3 to 6 days (could be longer) for a person to get sick after infection. The illness can vary from mild to severe, and can result in death.

2. Symptoms and treatment

Most Yellow Fever infections are asymptomatic and hence the need for all people travelling from or to Yellow Fever at risk countries to be vaccinated. Vaccination of such travellers will ensure that these persons will not introduce the virus into South Africa. Symptoms of Yellow Fever include:

- sudden onset of fever, shivers
- headache, muscle pain with prominent backache, abdominal pains with vomiting
- nausea or vomiting
- loss of appetite
- jaundice
- Bleeding from the mouth, nose, eyes or stomach and/or blood in the vomit and faeces.

If you develop any signs and symptoms, immediately contact your nearest health facility and give them your travel history.

3. Measures to prevent Yellow Fever infection

The following prevention measures should be taken if travelling to (or staying in) a Yellow Fever risk country or if you are being **quarantined** within a specified area in South Africa.

- Vaccinate against Yellow Fever
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- Use insect repellents containing up to 50 percent N-diethylmetatoluamide (DEET) on the skin.
- Apply insecticides containing permethrin to clothing.
- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors or in poorly screened rooms.
- Houses should be air conditioned or carefully screened.

4. Travellers to South Africa

If you are arriving to South Africa from an area at risk of Yellow Fever, **OR** if you are travelling from South Africa to a country with risk of Yellow Fever you **must** have a valid certificate of Yellow Fever vaccination. This certificate must show that you were vaccinated at least 10 days before travelling, and not more than 10 years before arriving in South Africa or departing from South Africa. Access information from the WHO website, your doctor or travel clinic to determine the areas at risk of Yellow Fever transmission.

Individuals that cannot be vaccinated against Yellow Fever, due to contra-indications, must be in possession of a waiver letter from their travel physician clearly stating the reason.

Travellers who have been granted entry into the country by Immigration Officers after recommendation for refusal of entry by Port Health Officials and those who cannot be vaccinated against Yellow Fever, due to contra-indications and can produce medical waivers (waiver letter) will be put under quarantine surveillance. Travellers who fail to produce either a valid proof of vaccination against Yellow Fever or medical waiver letter will be refused entry into South Africa.

Airport transits less than 12 hours through the airport of a country with risk of Yellow Fever transmission do not warrant a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate. Airport transits exceeding 12 hours, through the airport of a country with risk of Yellow Fever transmission, requires a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate on entry into South Africa.

For more information on Yellow Fever vaccination requirements when travelling, contact Department of Health, Environmental Health Directorate, Private Bag X828, PRETORIA, 0001; Tel: 012 395 8522/8518 (www.doh.gov.za)



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