



Frequently Asked Questions About Yellow Fever

What is yellow fever?

Yellow fever is a disease caused by a virus that is spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito.

It is a deadly disease. 10% of people infected can die.

Where does yellow fever virus occur?

Yellow fever virus is found in tropical and subtropical areas in South America and Africa. Yellow fever virus is a very rare cause of illness in U.S. travelers to these areas.

How soon do people get sick after being bitten by an infected mosquito?

The incubation period (time from infection to illness) is usually 3-6 days.

Who should get yellow fever vaccine?

Yellow fever vaccine is recommended for people age 9 months or older who are traveling to or living in areas at risk for yellow fever virus transmission in [South America](#) and [Africa](#).

Proof of yellow fever vaccine may be required for entry into certain countries.

For some countries, there are only certain areas where there is a risk for yellow fever.

Some countries may require proof of yellow fever vaccine, depending on the travelers' passport.

Who should not get yellow fever vaccine?

Infants younger than 6 months of age should not get the vaccine.

Anyone with a severe allergy to any part of the vaccine, including eggs, chicken proteins, or gelatin should not get the vaccine.

Anyone who has had a severe reaction to a previous dose of yellow fever vaccine should not be vaccinated again.

If you have any of the following conditions, your healthcare provider can help you decide whether you can safely receive the vaccine:

- HIV/AIDS or other disease that affects the immune system
- Weakened immune system as a result of cancer or other medical conditions, transplant, or drug treatment (such as steroids, chemotherapy, or others that affect immune function)
- Thymus disorder
- Adults 60 years of age and older
- Infants 6 - 8 months of age
- Pregnant women and nursing mothers

YELLOW FEVER EXEMPTION may be required for certain travelers.

What are the side effects of yellow fever vaccination?

Reactions to yellow fever vaccine are generally mild. They can include mild headaches, muscle aches, and low-grade fevers. There have been reports of extremely rare but serious events following yellow fever vaccination.

The vaccine may give life long protection.