



## YELLOW FEVER

### WHAT IS YELLOW FEVER?

A disease found in tropical and subtropical areas of Africa and South America, yellow fever is a viral infection spread by mosquitoes; it can result in illness and even death. The name “yellow fever” derives from a complication of the disease where the skin turns yellow - this is also known as jaundice.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

It can take several days before symptoms appear, usually within 3 to 6 days. The initial symptoms include sudden onset of fever, chills, severe headache, back pain, nausea, vomiting, fatigue and an overall feeling of weakness. While some people will get better after this stage, about 15% of those infected will enter the “toxic” stage which can lead to death in up to 20 -50% of those who develop the severe illness. Symptoms in this stage include high fever, visible bleeding, jaundice and kidney and liver failure; death is due to multi-organ failure.

### WHERE IS IT FOUND?

There are currently 42 countries where yellow fever has been declared a risk. Proof of vaccination for travel may be required if you are travelling to or from one of these countries, with many other countries also requiring vaccination for entry.

**Australia’s list of yellow fever declared countries\* includes:**

#### **Africa**

Angola

Benin

Burkina Faso

Burundi

Cameroon

Central African Republic

Chad

Congo, Democratic Republic of the

Congo, Republic of the

Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)

Equatorial Guinea

Ethiopia

Gabon

Gambia

Ghana

Guinea

Guinea-Bissau

Kenya

Liberia

Mali

Mauritania

Niger

Nigeria

Senegal

Sierra Leone

South Sudan

Sudan

Togo

Uganda

#### **South America & Central America**

Argentina – Misiones Province

Bolivia

Brazil

Colombia

Ecuador excluding Galapagos Islands

French Guiana

Guyana

Panama

Paraguay

Peru

Suriname

Trinidad

Venezuela

#### **[Department of Health](#)**

#### **HOW IS YELLOW FEVER TRANSMITTED?**

There are 3 transmission cycles for yellow fever:

1. Jungle cycle involves transmission of the virus between non-human primates (i.e. monkeys) and mosquito species which in turn transmit the virus to humans living, visiting or working in these areas.
2. In Africa there is an intermediate cycle (savannah) which involves the transmission of the virus from mosquitoes to humans living or working in jungle border areas. Here the virus can be transmitted from monkeys to humans or from humans to humans via mosquitoes.
3. The urban cycle involves the transmission of the virus between humans through bites from feeding urban-dwelling mosquitoes. The virus is introduced into this setting by individuals who were infected in the jungle or savannah.

## HOW IS YELLOW FEVER TREATED?

There is no specific cure for yellow fever; infected people are hospitalised for treatment of their symptoms and close observation.

## HOW CAN I STAY PROTECTED WHILE TRAVELLING?

Yellow fever is vaccine-preventable. If you are planning to travel to one of the yellow fever declared countries above, it is crucial to get vaccinated for your safety and to ensure you have no issues with entry into other countries. It is also important that while you are on your trip, you [avoid mosquitoes](#) – use [insect repellent](#), avoid perfume or cologne and wear light coloured, full-coverage clothing where possible.

## DO I REALLY NEED A VACCINATION?

Yellow fever is one of a few **mandatory** vaccinations and may be a requirement if you are travelling to or from a country with a declared presence of yellow fever. **Australians returning home** from a yellow fever endemic country are required to show a vaccination certificate (for travellers over 1 year of age) if they are arriving from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission, and for travellers having transited more than 12 hours through an airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission, excluding Galápagos Islands in Ecuador, the island of Tobago and limited to Misiones Province in Argentina.

## WHO CAN PROVIDE ME WITH A YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION?

Travelvax is a leading provider of travel health advice and medical services for those travelling overseas. We provide a one-stop travel health consultation to make your preparations as smooth as possible.

Our staff are passionate, enthusiastic and experienced in providing travel health services and will adapt your travel health plan to your personal needs and itinerary.

If you require vaccination against yellow fever, call our travel health advisory line on **1300 360 164** for more information.

**More information on Yellow Fever is available during your pre-travel consultation with Travelvax. Call 1300 360 164 for the location of the clinic nearest to you.**