

Yellow Fever



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مركز الأمراض الإنتقالية
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عضو في مؤسسة حمد الطبية
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Yellow Fever

Introduction

Yellow fever is a viral infection that spreads by the bite of an infected *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that mainly bites during daylight hours.

Found only in forty-seven countries in Central / South America and Sub-Saharan Africa.

To prevent importation of the disease, many countries require proof of vaccination against yellow fever before they will issue a visa, particularly if travellers come from, or have visited yellow fever endemic areas

Awareness of Risk

The incubation period is usually short, three to six days. Symptoms of the disease include sudden onset of fever, backache, generalized muscle pain, nausea, vomiting and jaundice. Infection with yellow fever results in lifelong natural immunity in individuals who recover. Up to 60% of those infected with yellow fever will die from the disease.

Treatment

There is no specific antiviral treatment for yellow fever.

Treatment is supportive to manage dehydration, respiratory failure and fever.

Vaccination

Some countries require proof of vaccination to:

- Prevent the international spread of yellow fever
- Protect individual travellers who may be exposed to yellow fever infection.

As yellow fever is frequently fatal, vaccination is recommended for all travellers (with a few exceptions). An individual risk assessment is indicated for all travellers.

A Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate may be required where:

- There is significant risk within the country
- A traveler is entering into a country which is free of disease (but has the vector) from a country with yellow fever risk

Recommendation for Travellers

- A traveler's risk of yellow fever is determined by their general risk assessment for example country visited, length of stay, city or rural activities etc.
- Mosquito bite avoidance rules should be adhered to - the mosquito that spreads yellow fever bites predominantly during the day.
- Yellow fever vaccine should be considered for travellers at risk.

The vaccine is available at the Communicable Disease Center in Travel Clinic