



WHAT IS... Yellow Fever?

Yellow fever is a virus spread by mosquito bites that occur in the jungle and tropical areas of South America and Africa.

It's called yellow fever because when the virus attacks the liver the skin and eyes turn yellow.

YELLOW FEVER WITH CONSENT FORM

What are the symptoms?

Yellow fever begins suddenly three to six days after being bit. Most people who get yellow fever experience:

- Fever
- Headache
- Chills
- Back pain
- Loss of appetite
- Vomiting
- Nausea

In most cases, the intensity of the infection lessens after three to four days. Approximately 15% of cases can enter a second (toxic) phase developing a fever, jaundice (yellowing of the skin) caused by liver damage, and abdominal pain. The toxic phase is deadly in about 20% of the cases.

Where am I most likely to catch yellow fever?

Yellow fever is found only in parts of South America and Africa.

How do I get yellow fever?

It's hard to predict the risk of getting yellow fever because environmental factors will vary the spread of the virus. For example, the risk of illness and death from the virus to an unvaccinated traveler on a two-week stay in West Africa during the highest risk season (July – October), is 50 per 100 000 and 10 per 100 000 respectively. The risk of illness and death in South America is approximately 10 times lower. These rates are based on the risk to people who are originally from these areas. They may not reflect the true risk of travellers who have different immunities, are more careful not to get bitten by daytime biting mosquitoes, and those who spend less time outdoors.



Is there a risk with the vaccination?

In 2001, some people who received the yellow fever vaccination developed a set of symptoms that included a fever and multiple body organ failure. This syndrome is now referred to as yellow fever vaccine-associated neuropathic disease (YFV-AND).

For the short-term traveller, the risk of YFV-AND compared to the risk of yellow fever disease is:

Age	Vaccine Risk Canadian Rates	Vaccine Risk USA Rates	YF Risk of Death W. Africa (2 wk)	YF Risk of Death S. America (2 wk)
< 60		0.7 / 100 000	10 / 100 000	1 / 100 000
60 – 69	1.1 / 100 000	4.0 / 100 000	10 / 100 000	1 / 100 000
70 +	3.2 / 100 000	7.5 / 100 000	10 / 100 000	1 / 100 000

Is YFV-AND serious?

Yes, it is very serious. Every affected person has required intensive care and approximately 70-80% of people died from it.

YFV-AND was first reported in young infants, but has now been reported in older adults. The risk of YFV-AND goes up as a person gets older.

If you have a medical reason that prevents you from getting the vaccine, a medical waiver can be given. Countries will generally accept a waiver, although this can't be guaranteed.

Reference:

- Gershman, M., Schroeder, B. & Staples, J.E. (2009). Travelers' Health - Yellow Book. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*.
- Public Health Agency of Canada. (2006). *Canadian Immunization Guide*, 343-350.
- Oldstone, M. (2000). *Viruses, Plagues, and History* (1 ed.). Oxford University Press, 45.

I have read and understand this information.

I **want** to receive the yellow fever vaccination.

I **don't want** to receive the yellow fever vaccination.

Patient Signature

Date

Witness Signature

For more information.

Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
Travel Immunization Clinic
519-258-2146 ext. 1872
www.wehealthunit.org