



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA'S YELLOW FEVER POLICY: A BRIEF SUMMARY

Yellow fever is an infectious vector-borne disease that is caused by a virus transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito vector such as *Aedes aegypti*. In South Africa the disease continues to be a public health threat, as the mosquito vector exists in the country.

South Africa requires a valid yellow fever certificate from all citizens and non-citizens over 1 year of age travelling from an infected area or having been in transit through infected areas (see list of infected countries below). This is in line with the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005). The IHR allow countries at risk to employ the following measures:

1.1 To obtain vaccination certificates from individuals travelling from areas determined by the WHO to be infected by yellow fever. The following should be exercised by South Africa for all travellers from high risk countries, who are unable to produce a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate at the port of entry:

- Refused entry; or
- quarantined until their certificate becomes valid, or for a period of not more than six days; or
- those with an exemption certificate due to medical reasons may be allowed entry and required to report any fever or other symptoms to the health authorities and be placed under surveillance.

NB: Definition of a valid Yellow fever vaccination certificate - vaccination should be approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO), and administered at least 10 days before departure to South Africa at the Yellow fever-approved vaccination centres as the vaccine offers protection 10 days after administration. If vaccination is administered less than 10 days before departure, the above-mentioned measures should be applied.

1.2 Disinsection of aircraft, ships, tyre casing consignments and other modes of transportation coming from infected areas

List of countries for which a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for entry into South Africa. These have been determined by the WHO to be high-risk countries for yellow fever.

Angola	Congo	Kenya	Senegal
Argentina	Côte d'Ivoire	Liberia	Sierra Leone
Benin	Democratic Republic	Mali	Somalia
Bolivia	of the Congo	Mauritania	Sudan
Brazil	Ecuador	Niger	Suriname
Burkina Faso	Equatorial Guinea	Nigeria	Togo
Burundi	Ethiopia	Panama	Trinidad and Tobago
Cameroon	French Guyana	Paraguay	Uganda
Central African Republic	Gabon	Peru	United Republic of Tanzania
Chad	Gambia	Rwanda	Venezuela
Colombia	Ghana	Sao Tome and	
Guinea-Bissau	Guinea	Principe	
	Guyana		