health
Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Prevention of yellow fever in South Africa

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 *Aëdes aegypti*. South Africa has a risk of introduction of the disease as the mosquito vector exists in the country.

The South African Department of Health would like to inform you of the amendments to the yellow fever vaccination policy for travellers coming from yellow fever risk countries. Travellers from countries with low risk of yellow fever transmission still pose a risk of yellow fever importation into South Africa. Therefore South Africa has reviewed its yellow fever vaccination requirements policy, which will be effective from **1 October 2011.**

As of 1 October 2011, all travellers from and to Zambia, in addition to the list of yellow fever risk countries below, will be required to show proof of yellow fever vaccination (unless in possession of a valid waiver certificate).

South Africa requires a valid yellow fever certificate from all citizens and non-citizens over one year of age:

- travelling from a yellow fever risk country (including low risk countries such as Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia); or
- having been in transit through a yellow fever risk country.

The above requirements are in line with the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005). The IHR requires countries at risk of yellow fever introduction to employ the following measures:

1.1 To obtain vaccination certificates from individuals travelling from areas determined by the WHO to be at risk of yellow fever transmission. As a result, South Africa will exercise the following measures for all travellers from yellow fever risk countries, who are unable to produce a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate at the port of entry:

- refuse entry; or
- quarantine until their certificate becomes valid, for a period of not more than six days; or
- those with an exemption certificate due to medical reasons will be :
  - allowed entry
  - required to report any fever or other symptoms to the health authorities
  - 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 a Yellow fever-approved vaccination centres at least 10 days before departure to South Africa. The vaccine offers protection 10 days after administration. If vaccination is administered less than 10 days before departure, the above-mentioned **measures will be applied.**

1.2 Disinfection of aircraft, ships, tyre casing consignments and other modes of transportation coming from yellow fever risk countries.

List of countries for which a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for entry into South Africa.

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	Zambia
Guinea-Bissau	Guinea	Principe	