

# UN Medical Directors' Vaccination and Malaria Prophylaxis Recommendations For UN Personnel on Official Travel and UN Health Care Workers

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# Background

- UN Medical Directors Vaccination and Malaria Prophylaxis Recommendations
- First published in 2019, updated now in 2021
- English and French versions available -
  1. [https://hr.un.org/sites/hr.un.org/files/PH\\_UNMDVaccinationMalariaGuidance\\_2021-07-26\\_FINAL\\_0.pdf](https://hr.un.org/sites/hr.un.org/files/PH_UNMDVaccinationMalariaGuidance_2021-07-26_FINAL_0.pdf)
  2. [https://hr.un.org/sites/hr.un.org/files/PH\\_UNMDVaccinationMalariaGuidance\\_2021-07-14\\_FINAL%20FRENCH\\_0.pdf](https://hr.un.org/sites/hr.un.org/files/PH_UNMDVaccinationMalariaGuidance_2021-07-14_FINAL%20FRENCH_0.pdf)

**United Nations Medical Directors  
Vaccination and Malaria Prophylaxis Recommendations  
For UN Personnel on Official Travel and UN Health Care Workers**  
July 2021

- The following UN Medical Directors' occupational health recommendations are provided to all Organizations and UN personnel in order to reduce the risk of UN personnel acquiring vaccine-preventable diseases and malaria.
- Sections 1 and 2 should be applied to all UN personnel travelling on official business. Section 3 should be applied only to UN health care workers.
- Note that these recommendations should be applied in consultation with your healthcare provider according to factors such as an individual's vaccination history, health status, destination/s, trip itinerary, type of travel, length of stay etc.
- If this is a hard copy of the document, please be sure to check [here](#) for the latest version of this document.
- Any questions, please contact DHMOSH Public Health at [DOS-DHMOSH-Public-Health@un.org](mailto:DOS-DHMOSH-Public-Health@un.org)

Broad Category	Description	Vaccines / Malaria Prevention Specified	UNMD Recommendations
1 <b>Routine Vaccines - Recommended for all UN personnel, regardless of travel destination</b>	These are routine vaccines that are typically part of childhood immunization schedules in countries. (See <a href="#">here</a> for WHO recommendations)	Some of these vaccines include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis</li> <li>• Flu (Influenza)</li> <li>• Measles, mumps, and rubella</li> <li>• Polio</li> <li>• Chickenpox (Varicella)</li> <li>• Hepatitis B</li> <li>• COVID-19</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN personnel are encouraged to be up to date with all their routine vaccination before every trip.</li> <li>• Vaccines should be received early enough (i.e. minimum of 2 weeks) in order to build adequate protection before departure.</li> <li>• Pre-travel consultation is a good opportunity for UN personnel to review their vaccination status with their health care provider before travelling</li> </ul>

# Background

- UNMD Recommendations are provided to all Organizations and UN personnel
- To **reduce** the risk of UN personnel acquiring vaccine-preventable diseases and malaria
  - **Sections 1 and 2** should be applied to **all UN personnel** traveling on official business
  - **Section 3** should be applied only to **UN health care workers**



# Overview

## All UN Personnel



**Section 1:**  
Routine Vaccines -  
*Regardless of travel destination*



**Section 2:**  
Destination- Based Vaccines and  
Malaria Prevention -  
*Recommended for specific  
destinations*

## Healthcare Workers



**Section 1:**  
Routine Vaccines -  
*Regardless of travel destination*



**Section 2:**  
Destination- Based Vaccines and  
Malaria Prevention -  
*Recommended for specific  
destinations*



**Section 3:**  
Vaccines  
*Recommended for at-risk UN  
healthcare workers*

# Overview (cont.)

- Caveat - These recommendations should be applied in **consultation** with individual's healthcare provider according to variables/factors:
  - Vaccination history
  - Health status
  - Destination/s
  - Trip itinerary
  - Type of travel
  - Length of stay



# Section 1: Routine Vaccines for ALL Destinations

- The vaccines here are recommended for all UN personnel, **regardless** of travel destination
- Some of these **routine** vaccines are typically part of childhood immunization schedules in countries

## Some of these vaccines include:

- Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis
- Flu (Influenza)
- Measles, mumps, and rubella
- Polio
- Chickenpox(Varicella)
- Hepatitis B
- COVID-19

# Section 1: Routine Vaccines for ALL Destinations

- UN personnel are encouraged to be up to date with all their routine vaccination **before** every trip
- Vaccines should be received early enough (i.e. **minimum of 2 weeks**) in order to build adequate protection before departure
- Pre-travel consultation is a good opportunity for UN personnel to **review their vaccination status** with their health care provider before travelling



Date (mm/dd/yyyy) (en français)	Polio Oral	Polio Injectable	Tetanus Diphtheria	Tetanus Diphtheria Polio	MM Measles Mumps	MMR Measles Mumps Rubella	MMRV Measles Mumps Rubella Varicella	MMRV Measles Mumps Rubella Varicella	MMRV Measles Mumps Rubella Varicella	MMRV Measles Mumps Rubella Varicella	MMRV Measles Mumps Rubella Varicella	MMRV Measles Mumps Rubella Varicella	Comments, other immunizations or tests Remarques, autres immunisations ou tests
91/08/29	✓	✓	✓	0									
01/12/10	✓	✓	✓	0									
01/11/22	✓	✓	✓	0									
92/04/14													MIS STATE #1
92/07/16													MIS STATE #2
92/09/25					✓	✓	✓						NA
92/12/15	✓	✓	✓	0	MM	MM							#1, #3
96/06/04					✓	✓	✓						
96/06/14	✓	✓	✓										

Note: If oral polio is given indicate with an 'O'  
Remarque: Si le vaccin antipoliomyélique est administré par voie orale, inscrire 'O'

\*Pertussis — Whooping cough  
Tetanus — Lockjaw  
Rubella — German measles

# Section 2: Destination-Specific Vaccines and Malaria Prevention

## Examples:

- **Part 2A:**  
Vaccines made **mandatory** by certain countries
- Some countries **require** proof of specific vaccination for travelers wishing to enter or exit the country

***Yellow fever vaccine*** for travelers going to and coming from countries/areas at risk of yellow fever per international health regulations (IHR)

***Meningococcal vaccine against serogroups A, C, Y and W1351*** (Required for pilgrims going to Saudi Arabia)

***Polio vaccine (OPV or IPV)*** for travelers arriving from select countries into polio-free countries (as per destination country's requirements)





# Vaccines and Malaria Prevention (cont.)

- All UN personnel travelling should be aware of, and compliant to, the destination country's **entry and exit requirements**
- For information on your destination country's stated requirements for yellow fever, polio, and other diseases, please see **WHO guidance** (linked in document)
- Individuals should also **check** with the relevant consulate or embassy for the latest information on travel requirements





## Vaccines and Malaria Prevention (cont.)

- **Part 2B:**  
Vaccines recommended, not mandatory, for **certain** destinations
- Vaccines are recommended to:
  - Provide **protection** against diseases endemic to the country of origin or of destination
  - To protect travelers and prevent disease spread **within and between countries**

### Some of these destination-specific vaccines include:

- Cholera
- Hepatitis A
- Japanese encephalitis
- Meningococcal disease
- Polio (adult booster dose)
- Typhoid fever
- Rabies
- Tick-borne encephalitis



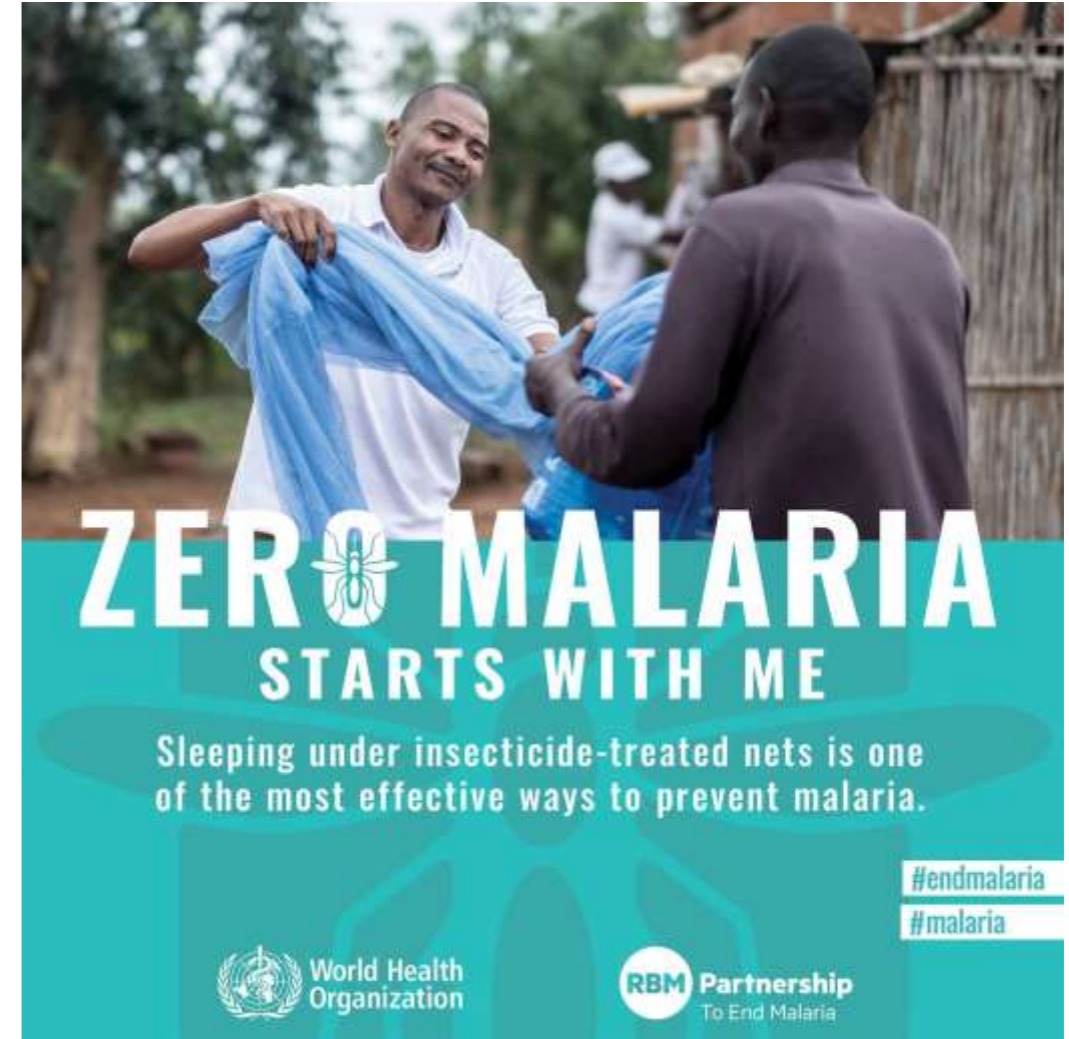
# Vaccines and Malaria Prevention (cont.)

- UN personnel should seek **advice** from your organization's medical services
- In addition, this **CDC** website <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list> is very useful for information on destination-specific vaccines recommended



## Vaccines and Malaria Prevention (cont.)

- **Part 2C:**  
Malaria prevention needed for specific countries/territories:
  1. Mosquito bite prevention (bed nets, DEET, loose clothing), **AND**
  2. Prophylaxis with antimalarial medicines
- There are **three** types of malaria prevention (Type A, B, C) are specified by WHO, depending on a country/territories' malaria risk profile



# Section 2: Destination-Specific Vaccines and Malaria Prevention (cont.)

## Malaria risk and type of prevention

	Malaria risk	Type of prevention
Type A	Very limited risk of malaria transmission	Mosquito-bite prevention only
Type B	Risk of non-falciparum malaria	Mosquito-bite prevention plus chloroquine, or doxycycline or atovaquone-proguanil or mefloquine chemoprophylaxis (select according to drug-resistance pattern, reported side-effects and contraindications) <sup>a</sup>
Type C	Risk of <i>P. falciparum</i> malaria	Mosquito-bite prevention plus atovaquone-proguanil or doxycycline or mefloquine chemoprophylaxis (select according to drug-resistance pattern, reported side-effects and contraindications) <sup>a, b</sup>

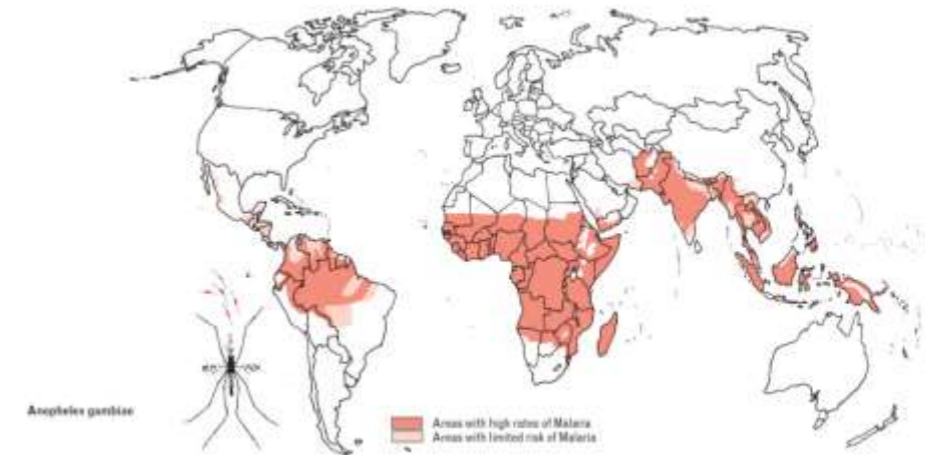
<sup>a</sup> Alternatively, for travel to rural areas with low risk of malaria infection, mosquito-bite prevention can be combined with SBET.

<sup>b</sup> In certain areas with multidrug-resistant malaria, mefloquine chemoprophylaxis is no longer recommended. At present, these areas include Cambodia, south-eastern Myanmar and Thailand.



## Vaccines and Malaria Prevention (cont.)

- UN personnel travelling to countries/territories with malaria transmission areas should consult **WHO guidance** on which type of malaria prevention to follow
- **CDC** also has an excellent malaria prophylaxis resource that can be used - [https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/travelers/country\\_table/a.html](https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/travelers/country_table/a.html)
- Note that the **choice** of malaria prophylaxis will depend on:
  - Exact location(s) of travel, duration, type of stay, specific health risk assessment including personal medical history



# Section 3: Vaccines Recommended for At-Risk UN Healthcare Workers



- UN **healthcare workers** who work directly with patients or handle material that could spread infection should be either:

Vaccinated against this list of diseases

**OR**

Have proof/ documentation of immunity against these diseases

## List of Required Vaccines for Healthcare Workers

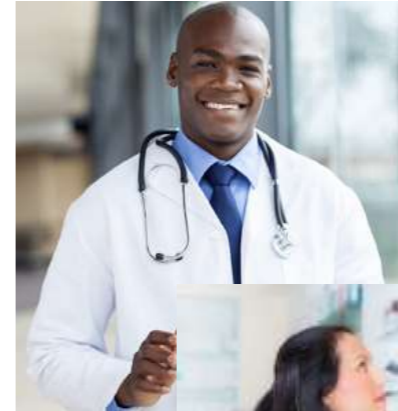
- Hepatitis B
- Measles, Rubella
- Influenza (yearly)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Diphtheria, Pertussis
- Polio
- Meningococcal
- BCG (in specific settings only)
- COVID-19

*Note: This list of vaccines is based on WHO's Position Paper on the Immunization of Health Care Workers (link in document)*

# Section 3: Vaccines Recommended for At-Risk UN Healthcare Workers



- “Health care workers” are defined as all persons involved in **patient care** including:
  - Physicians
  - Nurses
  - Emergency medical personnel
  - Lab technicians
  - Pharmacists
  - Dentists
- HCWs who are at risk for exposure to serious communicable diseases should be **up-to-date** with these recommended vaccines





# For more information

1. [https://hr.un.org/sites/hr.un.org/files/PH\\_UNMDVaccinationMalariaGuidance\\_2021-07-26\\_FINAL\\_0.pdf](https://hr.un.org/sites/hr.un.org/files/PH_UNMDVaccinationMalariaGuidance_2021-07-26_FINAL_0.pdf)
2. [https://hr.un.org/sites/hr.un.org/files/PH\\_UNMDVaccinationMalariaGuidance\\_2021-07-14\\_FINAL%20FRENCH\\_0.pdf](https://hr.un.org/sites/hr.un.org/files/PH_UNMDVaccinationMalariaGuidance_2021-07-14_FINAL%20FRENCH_0.pdf)

Any additional questions or more information, please contact  
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