

United Nations Medical Directors' Yellow Fever Risk Mitigation Plan and Recommendations for UN Personnel

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- The following occupational health recommendations are provided by the UN Medical Directors to all UN Organizations and apply to all UN personnel to reduce the risk of UN personnel acquiring Yellow Fever.
- Yellow fever is an acute viral hemorrhagic disease. It is a vaccine preventable disease and is transmitted by infected *Aedes* and *Haemogogus* mosquito bite.
- **Duty stations should take into account local host country/authorities' guidance and regulations when implementing these recommendations.**
- Contact dos-dhmosh-public-health@un.org for more information.

Risk Categories	UN Medical Directors' Recommendations
1 All UN personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarize yourself with Yellow fever (YF) and be aware of the local risk of YF in your local duty station. A list of countries with YF transmission is available here. • Protect yourself from mosquito bites including wearing loose fitting clothing that minimizes skin exposure to mosquitoes, use of DEET (or equivalent) products (mosquito repellants), ensuring windows have screens and usage of mosquito bed nets. • UN personnel can also help prevent mosquito breeding grounds in their duty station by preventing mosquitoes from accessing egg-laying habitats, disposing of solid waste, reducing areas where water can collect and stagnate, and applying insecticides to outdoor water storage containers . • UN personnel should ensure they have received their Yellow fever vaccination as well as keep record of the same when travelling to countries with YF transmission and those that require YF vaccination to enter. • The YF vaccine is safe and effective and only a single dose for life-long protection against YF. A booster dose of the vaccine is not needed after the primary dose. In some instances of limited YF vaccination during outbreak response, fractional doses (1/5 dose) may be used. • Good supportive treatment in hospitals improves survival rates. There is currently no specific anti-viral drug for yellow fever.
2 UN personnel with underlying health conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YF vaccine is a live-attenuated vaccine. It should not be given to infants less than 9 months, people with severe allergies to egg protein and those with severe immunodeficiencies due to symptomatic HIV/AIDS or other causes, or those who have a thymus disorder

3 UN personnel who are pregnant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant UN personnel need to consult their doctor for advice on YF vaccination. • As the YF vaccine is a live vaccine, it is not recommended during pregnancy unless there is a YF outbreak and the risk of YF infection is high.
4 UN managers who approve travel / UN personnel who are travelling or plan to travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination is the most important means of preventing Yellow fever. • As in section 1, HCWs should be vaccinated for YF if they are travelling to countries with YF transmission as well as those that require proof of YF vaccination per international health regulations (IHR).
5 UN health care workers (HCWs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow fever is difficult to diagnose especially during the early stages. A more severe case can be confused with severe malaria, leptospirosis, viral hepatitis (especially fulminant forms), and other hemorrhagic fevers. • HCWs should be aware of signs/symptoms of YF which include fever, headache, jaundice, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting and fatigue. • HCWs should be aware that a proportion of patients will develop severe symptoms, of which half will die in 7-10 days. • Yellow fever is managed with supportive care and there are no specific antivirals available.
6 UN personnel with confirmed or probably YF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As many other infections can be transmitted by the same vector and signs and symptoms can overlap with other diseases, UN personnel should seek medical attention if they believe that they have YF for assessment of differential diagnosis and appropriate management.

References:

- <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/yellow-fever>
- [https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/countries-with-risk-of-yellow-fever-transmission-and-countries-requiring-yellow-fever-vaccination-\(may-2021\)](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/countries-with-risk-of-yellow-fever-transmission-and-countries-requiring-yellow-fever-vaccination-(may-2021))