



health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **Yellow Fever Policy Brief**

### **Prevention of yellow fever introduction into 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 *Aedes 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 is 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 mentioned 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 World Health Organisation (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, or 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: The definition of a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate is a vaccination that is approved by the WHO and administered by a yellow fever approved vaccination centre 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	Côte d'Ivoire	Guyana	Senegal
Argentina	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Benin	Ecuador	Liberia	Somalia
Bolivia	Equatorial Guinea	Mali	Sudan
Brazil	Eritrea	Mauritania	Suriname
Burkina Faso	Ethiopia	Niger	Togo
Burundi	French Guyana	Nigeria	Trinidad and Tobago
Cameroon	Gabon	Panama	Uganda
Central African Republic	Gambia	Paraguay	United Republic of Tanzania
Chad	Ghana	Peru	Venezuela
Colombia	Guinea	Rwanda	Zambia
Congo	Guinea-Bissau	Sao Tome and Principe	