



**Ministry of Health, Republic of South Sudan**  
Yellow Fever Travel Advisory



**January 2024**

**Background**

Yellow Fever is a viral disease that is transmitted by mosquitoes belonging to the *Aedes* species. Yellow Fever can lead to serious illness and even death. The "yellow" in the name refers to the jaundice that affects some patients. Symptoms of Yellow Fever include fever, headache, jaundice, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting, and fatigue. A small proportion of patients who contract the virus develop severe symptoms, and approximately half of those die within 7 to 10 days.

Yellow Fever has an incubation period of 3-6 days following infection. Many people do not experience symptoms, but when these do occur, the most common are fever, muscle pain with prominent backache, headache, loss of appetite, and nausea or vomiting. In most cases, symptoms disappear after 3 to 4 days.

A small percentage of patients, however, enter a second, more toxic phase within 24 hours of recovering from initial symptoms. High fever returns and several body systems are affected, usually the liver and the kidneys. In this phase people are likely to develop jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes, hence the name 'Yellow Fever'), dark urine and abdominal pain with vomiting. Bleeding can occur from the mouth, nose, eyes or stomach. Half of the patients who enter the toxic phase die within 7 - 10 days.

Yellow Fever vaccine is the best protection against Yellow Fever disease, which can be fatal.

**Justification**

Travellers going to countries which are endemic for Yellow Fever are at risk for infection with the virus. International health regulations (IHR) require proof of Yellow Fever vaccination for travel to and from Yellow Fever-endemic countries. In 2016, the World Health Organization extended the validity of the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP, sometimes called the "yellow card") from 10 years to lifelong protection. This decision was based on evidence that a single dose of Yellow Fever vaccine protects most people for many decades. The vaccine is a live, weakened form of the virus given as a single shot. The vaccine is recommended for people aged nine months or older and who are traveling to or living in areas at risk for Yellow Fever virus in Africa and South America.

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South Sudan is designated as a country at high risk of Yellow Fever outbreaks. The country has gone through four Yellow Fever outbreaks, with the last one reported in December 2023. Inbound travellers to South Sudan, regardless of nationality, are there required to show proof of Yellow Fever vaccination as a public health measure to keep travellers from importing the virus into the country.

Given this background and justification and in line with the East African Community, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has issued these requirements for South Sudan:

#### **Travel Guidance**

##### **1. Inbound travellers:**

Presentation of proof of Yellow Fever vaccination using the “yellow card” along with your passport to a port health official. The ICVP should be the original signed and stamped document, not a photocopy or screenshot. The ICVP is not valid until ten days after getting the vaccine, the time needed to develop immunity to the Yellow Fever virus.

The certificate is required for all inbound travellers nine months old and older.

Exemption from this requirement maybe granted for children not eligible for Yellow Fever vaccination (that's children below 9 months), people with severe allergies, people older than 60 years and people with weakened immune systems (i.e., having cancer, AIDS, etc.) and or pregnant or lactating women traveling to areas with Yellow Fever transmission, vaccination is recommended when travel cannot be postponed or avoided.

##### **2. Outbound travellers:**

Presentation of a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate or evidence to a port health official indicating that a Yellow Fever certificate is not required for the country of destination.

This travel advisory will be reviewed and updated periodically as needed.

Please contact the PHEOC Incident Management Team at [sspheoc@gmail.com](mailto:sspheoc@gmail.com) or 0917235355.

**Ministry of Health,  
Republic of South Sudan**



A handwritten signature in green ink, enclosed in a green oval. The signature is stylized and appears to be "19-01-24" with some illegible scribbles above it.