# Yellow Fever

## What is Yellow Fever?
- Yellow fever is a serious disease caused by a virus.
- It is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*).
- Yellow fever can cause severe flu-like symptoms: fever, chills, headache, backache, muscle pains, exhaustion, nausea and vomiting.
- Infection can also cause liver and kidney failure; (20-50% of these people die).
- Yellow fever is only found in certain parts of Africa, South America and is also found in Panama east of the Panama Canal.

## What does Yellow Fever vaccine contain?
- Yellow fever vaccine contains egg, sorbitol, gelatin and chicken protein.
- The stopper of yellow fever diluent contains latex; the stopper of the vaccine vial does not.

## How effective is the vaccine?
- Between 80-100% of people develop protection within 10 days. The vaccine may provide less protection to people who are pregnant or immunosuppressed.

## How long does the vaccine last?
- Protection may last 10-30 years.
- The yellow fever certificate is valid internationally for 10 years beginning 10 days after date of immunization.

## Who should receive the vaccine?
- People 9 months or over who are travelling to countries where Yellow Fever occurs.
- Some countries require Yellow Fever immunization.

## Who should not receive the vaccine?
- Infants <9 months, because of the risk of encephalitis.
- Women planning conception in the next 12 weeks unless recommended by a Medical Health Officer.
- Pregnant or breastfeeding women, unless recommended by a Medical Health Officer.
- Anyone who has had a life-threatening allergic reaction to any component of the vaccine.
- People with a life-threatening allergy to eggs or egg products, who have a positive skin test reaction.
- People with a history of thymus disorders (e.g. thymectomy, myasthenia gravis, thymoma).
- Solid organ transplants or hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients within 2 years of transplantation.
- People with lowered immune response due to drug or radiation therapy or due to disease (e.g. leukemia, lymphoma, AIDS and HIV).
- People who are 60+ years, except in consultation with the Medical Health Officer. Multiple organ failure, a rare and possibly fatal side effect, is more likely to occur in people over this age.
- People who have received other live injected vaccines within the last month (e.g. measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, zostavax) except in consultation with the Medical Health Officer.
- People with moderate to severe illness may have to delay immunization.
- Use with caution in clients with Multiple Sclerosis

**How is the vaccine given?**

- By injection into the fatty layer beneath the skin.
- May be safely given with other vaccines.

**When should the vaccine be given?**

- At least 10 days before travel to a country of risk.
- Revaccination every 10 years if travelling to a country of risk.

**What might be felt after receiving the vaccine?**

**Very Common (≥ 10%)**
- headache, muscle aches, low-grade fevers, redness or soreness at injection site, 5 - 10 days after immunization.

**Common (Between 1% and 10%)**
- nausea, rash/hives.

**Very Rare (Between 0.01% and 0.1%)**
- Immediate allergic reactions (hives or reactive airways occurring mainly in people with history of egg or other allergies).
- Neurotropic disease (post-vaccine encephalitis) - more likely in those <9 months of age or immunocompromised. The estimated risk is 0.8/100,000 doses for all ages, 1.6/100,000 doses ages 60-69 and 2.3/100,000 doses ages ≥ 70 years old. (CCDR, March 2013; CDC, 2014)
- Viscerotrop disease or febrile multi-organ failure (0.4/100,000 doses for all ages) - more likely in those with thymus disease or those ≥ 60 years. In those 60-69 years of age, the estimated risk is 1.0/100,000 doses. For those ≥ 70 years old, risk is estimated to be 2.3-3.2/100,000 doses. (CCDR, March 2013; CDC, 2014)

Call the number below if you have a severe or unusual reaction.

Your immunization information will be recorded in a computerized system known as the Saskatchewan Immunization Management Systems (SIMS). Information collected in SIMS may be used to:
- manage immunization records
- notify you if you or your child needs an immunization
- and monitor how well vaccines work in preventing vaccine preventable diseases.

Your immunization records may also be shared with health care professionals in order to provide public health services; assist with diagnosis and treatment; and to control the spread of vaccine preventable diseases.

For more information, call the International Travel Centre at (306) 655-4780

[www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/internationaltravel](http://www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/internationaltravel)