

SUBJECT: Yellow Fever Vaccination Requirement for Travellers Across Frontiers Of Ghana

I wish to bring to your notice and to solicit cooperation and assistance for dissemination of these guidelines on Yellow Fever vaccination requirements for travellers by air, sea and land across the frontiers of Ghana.

Yellow Fever is an acute viral infection transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. It is endemic and epidemic in several countries in Africa, South America and Caribbean island. Case fatality rate is high in classic yellow fever epidemics. There is no curative medical treatment. It is however highly preventable by vaccination.

In accordance with the International Health Regulations IHR 2005:

- Article 36 (Certification of Vaccination or other prophylaxis);
- Annex 6 (Vaccination, prophylaxis and related certificate);
- Annex 7 (Requirement concerning vaccination or prophylaxis for specific diseases);

The policy of the Ministry of Health Ghana for travellers across the frontiers of Ghana is as follows:

Travellers above nine (9) months old coming (into or leaving Ghana) from countries with risk of Yellow fever transmission are required to have been vaccinated against Yellow fever at least ten (10) days before and where already vaccinated the duration of vaccination status of not more than ten years before entering into Ghana. This also applies to all travellers leaving Ghana.

The World Health Organisation lists the following countries as being at risk for yellow fever transmission:

Africa

Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, and Uganda.

South America

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.

Since Ghana is one of the countries at risk of Yellow fever transmission, it is recommended for travellers coming from countries with no risk of Yellow Fever transmission to have valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate or records indicating their protection against Yellow Fever.

(A person with valid Yellow Fever Vaccination certificate is defined as one who has been vaccinated against Yellow Fever at least ten (10) days before and where already vaccinated the duration of vaccination status of not more than ten years before entering or leaving Ghana).

Details of Yellow Fever Vaccination in Ghana for International Travel.

6. Vaccinations are carried out at one designated centres in each of the ten administrative regions by authorized competent health professionals. Details of designated vaccination centres are available at all Regional Health Directorates in each of the ten regional capitals.
7. Vaccinations are also carried out at designated Points of Entry (PoE) by authorized competent health professionals for travellers with no valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate.
8. The vaccination certificates are signed by designated and authorised health officers at each of the designated centres (one in each administrative region and Point of Entry (PoE)).
9. Only vaccination certificates obtained from the designated vaccination centres will be accepted as valid vaccination document at the Points of Entry. These have serial numbers and other security features.

The centres are:

Region	Name of Centre	Venue
Volta	Disease Control Unit	Ho
Brong Ahafo	Disease Control Unit	Sunyani
Greater Accra	Ridge Hospital OPD(Adabraka Polyclinic)	Adabraka
Upper East	Regional Hospital	Bolgantanga
Ashanti	Manhyia Gov't Hospital	Kumasi
Central	Metro Health Unit	Cape Coast
Western	Disease Control Unit	Takoradi
Northern	Vaccination Centre	Tamale
Eastern	Disease Control Unit	Koforidua
Upper West	Regional Cold Room	Wa

Point of Entry (PoE)

Port Health staff will carry out the following at all Point of Entry (PoE):

3. Inspection of Travellers Certificates

Travellers to and from Ghana will have their travel certificates inspected with respect to Yellow Fever vaccination in accordance with Article 36 (Certificate of Vaccination or other prophylaxis) and Annex 6 (Vaccination, prophylaxis and related certificates)

Annex 7 (Requirement concerning vaccination or prophylaxis for specific diseases) of the International Health Regulations IHR 2005. Travellers from Yellow Fever risk countries must have valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificates.

4. Vaccination at (PoE)

This will become necessary under the following conditions:

e. Travellers nine (9) months and above from any of the YF risk countries to Ghana without valid Yellow fever Vaccination certificates;

f. Travellers nine months and above leaving Ghana (both Ghanaians and non-Ghanaians) without valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate;

g. Travellers nine (9) months and above from any of the YF risk countries to Ghana without International Travel Certificate. Since the only source or evidence of valid Yellow Fever vaccination is the Yellow Fever International Travel Certificate, a person without this certificate be deemed not have been protected against or at risk of Yellow fever if he/she comes from or going to Yellow fever risk country.

h. If either (a) or (b) is met, Yellow fever vaccination and travel certificate will be given by designated competent and authorized health officers at the Point of Entry at the cost to be borne by the traveller. Appropriate receipts are issued following the vaccination and issuance of the certificate.

Thank you very much.

Dr. Sylvester Anemana

Chief Director

For: Mister of Health