

Yellow Fever Vaccination Requirement for Travelers Across 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 the Caribbean Islands. 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 certificates); and
- Annex 7 (Requirement concerning vaccination or prophylaxis for specific diseases).

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

Travelers 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 Ghana. This also applies to all travelers leaving Ghana.

The World Health Organization 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, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.

South America

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

Since Ghana is one of the countries at risk of Yellow Fever transmission, it is recommended for travelers 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 on Yellow Fever Vaccination in Ghana for International Travel

- Vaccinations are carried out at one designated centre 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;
- Vaccinations are also carried out at designated Points of Entry (PoE) by authorized competent health professionals for travelers with no valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate;
- The vaccination certificates are signed by designated and authorized health officers at each of the designated centres (one in each administrative region and Points of Entry (PoE)); and
- Only vaccination certificates obtained from the designated vaccination centres will be accepted as valid vaccination documents at 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	Bolgatanga
Ashanti	Manhyia Government Hospital	Kumasi
Central	Metro Health Unit	Cape Coast
Western	Disease Control Unit	Cape Coast
Northern	Vaccination Centre	Takoradi
Eastern	Disease Control Unit	Koforidua
Upper West	Regional Cold Room	Wa

Points of Entry (PoE)

Port Health Staff will carry out the following at all Points of Entry (PoE):

- Inspection of Travel Certificates
- Travels to and from Ghana will have their travel certificates inspected with respect to Yellow Fever vaccination in accordance with Article 36 (Certification 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. Travelers from Yellow Fever risk countries must have valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificates.

Vaccinations at (PoE)

This will become necessary under the following conditions:

- (i) Travelers nine (9) months and above from any of the Yellow Fever risk countries to Ghana without valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate;
- (ii) Travelers nine (9) months and above leaving Ghana (both Ghanaians and non-Ghanaians) without valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate;
- (iii) Travelers nine (9) months and above from any of the Yellow Fever risk countries to Ghana without International Travel Certificate. Since the only source or evidence of valid Yellow Fever vaccination is the Yellow Fever Travel Certificate, a person without this certificate will be deemed not to have been protected against or at risk of Yellow Fever if he/she comes from or going to Yellow Fever risk country.
- (iv) If either (i) or (ii) is met, Yellow Fever vaccination and travel certificate will be given by designated competent and authorized health officers at the Point of Entry at cost to be borne by the traveler. Appropriate receipts are issued following the vaccination and issuance of the certificate.