

# Yellow Fever Vaccine

Vaccination,  
the best protection

April 2018

Vaccination is the best protection against yellow fever and its complications. This vaccine is recommended for people travelling to regions of Africa or South America where the disease is present. Some countries may also require vaccination against yellow fever as a condition of entry.

Disease	Transmission	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
<b>Yellow fever</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Yellow fever is spread by the bite of a mosquito infected with yellow fever virus.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fever</li><li>Headache</li><li>Backache</li><li>Fatigue</li><li>Nausea</li><li>Vomiting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Kidney and liver failure, signs of hemorrhage (15% of infected persons)</li><li>Death (from 20 to 50% of severe cases)</li></ul>

## The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against yellow fever and its complications.

Women receiving the vaccine should avoid becoming pregnant for 1 month after the vaccination.

Women who are breastfeeding a baby less than 9 months of age should inform the person giving the vaccine.

## Symptoms after vaccination

Some symptoms may be caused by the vaccine (e.g. redness at the injection site). Other problems may occur by chance and are not related to the vaccine (e.g. cold, gastro, headache).

Yellow fever vaccine is safe. In most cases, it does not cause any reaction.

Frequency	Known reactions to this vaccine	What to do
Often (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pain and redness at the injection site</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site.</li><li>Use medication for fever or discomfort if needed.</li><li>See a doctor if symptoms are severe.</li></ul>
Exceptionally (less than 1 person in 100,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Serious liver, kidney or nervous system damage that can lead to death</li><li>Neurological reactions including encephalitis (a brain infection, particularly in very young infants).</li></ul> <p><i>These reactions are more common in persons aged 60 and older (less than 1 person in 10,000).</i></p>	

We recommend that you stay at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after vaccination because allergic reactions may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after the vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

**For any questions, contact the person giving the vaccine,  
or Info-Santé 8-1-1 or your doctor.**