

Immunization Pharmacy Protocol

Yellow Fever Vaccine (YF-VAX®)	
Last Reviewed	21 March 2023
Last Revised	21 March 2023
This order expires	31 March 2025

WARNING

Yellow fever vaccine-associated viscerotropic disease (YEL-AVD)¹

YEL-AVD is a severe illness similar to wild-type YF disease, with vaccine virus proliferating and disseminating throughout the host's tissues. To date, two specific risk factors for YEL-AVD have been identified: older age and a history of thymus disease or thymectomy. YEL-AVD has been reported to occur only after the first dose of YF vaccine.

Yellow fever vaccine-associated neurotropic disease (YEL-AND)¹

YEL-AND is a serious but rarely fatal adverse event that occurs in first-time YF vaccine recipients. YEL-AND represents a conglomeration of clinical syndromes, including meningoencephalitis, Guillain-Barré syndrome, acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, and cranial nerve palsies.

Adults ≥60 years of age¹

Age ≥60 years is a precaution to receiving YF vaccine, particularly a first-ever dose. The risks of YEL-AVD and YEL-AND are higher in this age group.

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You must be an Oregon-certified Yellow Fever (YF) vaccine provider to administer this vaccine.

More information on Oregon's yellow fever certification can be found at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/vaccinesimmunization/immunizationproviderresources/pages/yellfev.aspx>.

1. What's new

YF-VAX (yellow fever vaccine) is again available in the United States. As of May 6, 2021, Stamaril® is no longer available. Providers with a current Oregon Yellow Fever Vaccination Stamp may now order YF-VAX from the manufacturer.³

2. Oregon immunization protocol

- A. Check the ALERT Immunization Information System (IIS) to determine whether the patient needs this vaccine and any other vaccines.
- B. Screen clients for contraindications and precautions.
- C. Provide a current Vaccine Information Statement (VIS), answering any questions.
- D. Record all required data elements in the client's permanent health record.
- E. Verify needle length for subcutaneous (SQ) injection.
- F. Yellow fever vaccine may be given with all other ACIP-recommended child and adult vaccines, including travel vaccines.

G. Ask client to remain seated on the premises for 15 minutes after vaccination to decrease the risk of injury should they faint.

Immunizing pharmacist

Date

3. Vaccine schedule for yellow fever vaccine

Dose and Route: 0.5 mL, SQ ¹			
Dose	Preferred age	Minimum acceptable age	Minimum acceptable spacing
1	7 years	7 years	
Booster [#]			10 years

[#]Not routinely recommended. See Section 5 for details.

4. Licensed yellow fever vaccine

Product Name	Vaccine Components	Acceptable Age Range	Preferred age
YF-VAX ^{®1}	17D-204 strain of YF virus grown in chicken embryos with gelatin and sorbitol as a stabilizer	7 years	7 years

5. Recommendations for use

- A. Due to the risk of serious adverse events that can occur following YF vaccine administration, providers should carefully observe the contraindications and consider the precautions to vaccination prior to administration; and vaccinate only persons who are at risk of exposure to YF virus or who require proof of vaccination for country entry.³
- B. YF vaccine is recommended for persons aged 7 years who are traveling to or living in areas at risk for yellow fever virus (YFV) transmission in South America or Africa.²
- C. Countries or areas with risk of yellow fever transmission are listed at: wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2020/preparing-international-travelers/yellow-fever-vaccine-and-malaria-prophylaxis-information-by-country. Vaccination is also recommended for travel outside the urban areas of countries that do not officially report the disease but that lie in a yellow fever-endemic zone.³

- D. Yellow fever vaccination may be required for international travel. Some countries in Africa require evidence of YF vaccination from all entering travelers and some countries may waive the requirements for travelers arriving from areas where there is no current evidence of significant risk for contracting yellow fever and will be staying less than 2 weeks. Some countries require an individual, even if only in transit, to have a valid International Certificate of Vaccination if the individual has been in countries either known or thought to harbor yellow fever virus. The certificate becomes valid 10 days after vaccination with YF vaccine.³
- E. Laboratory personnel who might be exposed to virulent yellow fever virus or to concentrated preparations of the yellow fever vaccine strain by direct or indirect contact or by aerosols should be vaccinated.⁶
- F. **Simultaneous Administration of Other Vaccines or Drugs:** No evidence exists that inactivated vaccines and YF vaccine interfere with the immune response to the vaccine. Therefore, inactivated vaccines can be administered either simultaneously or at any time before or after YF vaccination. YF vaccine should be administered either simultaneously or 30 days apart from other live viral vaccines because the immune response to one live virus vaccine might be impaired if administered within 30 days of another live-virus vaccine.⁶
- G. **Booster Dose recommendations:** As of July 11, 2016, International Health Regulations NO LONGER require revaccination at intervals of 10 years: a completed International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis is now valid for the lifetime of the vaccinee. Vaccine administrators should check national requirements.²
- a. **High-Risk Travel:** Travelers who received their last dose of yellow fever vaccine at least 10 years previously and who will be in a higher-risk setting based on season, location, activities, and duration of their travel. This would include travelers who plan to spend a prolonged period in endemic areas or those traveling to highly endemic areas such as rural West Africa during peak transmission season or an area with an ongoing outbreak.
 - b. **Hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients:** Persons who received a hematopoietic stem cell transplant after receiving a dose of yellow fever vaccine and who are sufficiently immunocompetent to be safely vaccinated should be revaccinated before their next travel that puts them at risk for yellow fever virus infection.
 - c. **HIV Infection:** Persons who were infected with human immunodeficiency virus when they received their last dose of yellow fever vaccine should receive a dose every 10 years if they continue to be at risk for yellow fever virus infection.

- d. **Pregnancy:** Women who were pregnant when they received their initial dose of vaccine should receive 1 additional dose before they are next at risk for YF.
- e. **Laboratory workers** who routinely handle wild-type yellow fever virus should have yellow fever virus-specific neutralizing antibody titers measured at least every 10 years to determine if they should receive additional doses of the vaccine. For laboratory workers who are unable to have neutralizing antibody titers measured, yellow fever vaccine should be given every 10 years as long as they remain at risk.

6. Contraindications

- A. History of life-threatening allergic reaction to eggs, chicken, gelatin, or a previous yellow fever vaccine.¹
- B. History of thymus disorders associated with abnormal immune cell function, such as thymomas or myasthenia gravis.⁶
- C. Symptomatic HIV infection.⁶
- D. History of primary immunodeficiencies, malignant neoplasms, transplantation, immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory therapies. Persons receiving current or recent radiation therapy or immunosuppressive drugs.¹
- E. Postpone vaccination in case of an acute or febrile disease.¹

7. Warnings and precautions

- A. Avoid vaccinating breastfeeding women against YF. However, when travel of nursing mothers to YF–endemic areas cannot be avoided or postponed, these women should be vaccinated. Some experts recommend breastfeeding women who receive YF vaccine should temporarily suspend breastfeeding, pump, and discard pumped milk for at least 2 weeks after vaccination before resuming breastfeeding. Lactation is a precaution for vaccination, particularly if the breastfeeding infant is <9 months of age, because of the risk of encephalitis.²
- B. Pregnancy is a precaution, and pregnant women should avoid travel to a yellow fever-endemic area. If travel is unavoidable and the vaccination risks outweigh the risks of YFV exposure, pregnant women should be excused and issued a medical waiver to fulfill health regulations. Pregnant women who must travel to areas where YFV exposure is likely should be vaccinated.¹
- C. Persons ≥60 years of age maybe at increased risk for serious adverse events after vaccination, compared with younger persons. The rate of serious adverse events following vaccination is 1.5 times higher than the average rate for persons 60–69 years of age and 3 times higher for persons 70 years or older.

If travel is unavoidable, the decision to vaccinate travelers aged ≥ 60 years needs to be weighed against their destination-specific risk for exposure to YFV. Particular caution should be considered for older travelers receiving YF vaccine for the first time.¹

- D. Asymptomatic HIV infection with moderate immune suppression, i.e., CD4+ T-lymphocyte values of 200 to 499/mm³ for persons aged ≥ 6 years old.²

8. Other considerations

- A. ACIP recommends that a woman wait 4 weeks after receiving the yellow fever vaccine before conceiving.⁶
- B. Epinephrine hydrochloride solution (1:1,000) and other appropriate agents and equipment must be available for immediate use in case an anaphylactic or acute hypersensitivity reaction occurs.⁵
- C. HIV-infected persons, because vaccination of asymptomatic HIV-infected persons might be less effective, measurement of their neutralizing antibody response to vaccination should be considered before travel. Contact CDC at 970-221-6400 to discuss serologic testing further.⁶
- D. Allergic Reactions: less severe or localized manifestations of allergy to eggs or to feathers are not contraindications to vaccine administration and do not usually warrant vaccine skin testing.¹
- E. National YF vaccination Requirements are mandatory and are primarily intended to prevent importation into and transmission of YF virus within a given country. Some countries require evidence of vaccination from all entering travelers. International Health Regulations stipulate that a Yellow Fever Stamp-Approved care provider may issue a waiver of yellow fever vaccination to a traveler, if the provider judges that yellow fever vaccination is medically contraindicated. The traveler also should be advised of the possibility that the medical waiver might not be accepted by the destination country. Failure to secure validations can cause a traveler to be quarantined, denied entry, or possibly revaccinated at the point of entry to a country.³ Country requirements are subject to change at any time; therefore CDC encourages travelers to check with the appropriate embassy or consulate before departure. Because requirements may change, current information should be obtained from the CDC's Travelers' Health website:
<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2020/preparing-international-travelers/yellow-fever-vaccine-and-malaria-prophylaxis-information-by-country>.
- F. All travelers to yellow fever endemic countries should be advised of the risks of the disease and available methods to prevent it, including personal protective measures and vaccine. All travelers should take precautions to avoid mosquito

bites to reduce the risk of YF and other vector-borne infectious diseases. These precautions include using insect repellent, wearing permethrin-impregnated clothing, and staying in screened or air conditioned-rooms. Additional information on protection against mosquitoes and other arthropods can be found at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/avoid-bug-bites>

9. Side effects and adverse reactions

YF-VAX ¹	
Local injection site reactions like pain, redness, swelling, rash	Up to 71.9%
Systemic symptoms like fever, tiredness, headache, muscle pain	Up to 30%
Vaccinees over 65 years of age are at increased risk of systemic adverse events and at lower risk of local reactions.	

10. Storage and handling

All clinics and pharmacies enrolled with the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program must immediately report any storage and handling deviations to the Oregon Immunization Program at 1-800-980-9431.

Vaccine	Temp	Storage Issues	Notes
YF-VAX ¹	2°–8°C (36°F–46°F)	Do not use if vaccine has been frozen.	Use immediately. Reconstituted vaccine not used must be discarded after one hour. Discarded vaccine must be either sterilized or disposed in red hazardous waste containers.

11. Adverse events reporting

Report adverse events online to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) at <https://vaers.hhs.gov/reportevent.html>.

VAERS Reporting Table:

[https://vaers.hhs.gov/docs/VAERS Table of Reportable Events Following Vaccination.pdf](https://vaers.hhs.gov/docs/VAERS%20Table%20of%20Reportable%20Events%20Following%20Vaccination.pdf)

A pharmacist who administers any vaccine must report the following elements to the OHA ALERT Immunization Information System in a manner prescribed by OHA within 15 days of administration. This replaces the former requirement to notify the primary health care provider. A pharmacist is not required to notify the primary health care provider. Oregon Administrative Rule [855-019-0290\(2\)](#).

12. References

1. YF-VAX® February 2019 package insert. Available at: <https://www.fda.gov/media/76015/download>. Accessed 21 March 2023.
2. CDC. Yellow fever vaccine booster doses: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP),2015. MMWR 2015;64;647–50. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6423.pdf>. Accessed 21 March 2023.
3. Yellow Fever. In: CDC Yellow Book 2020; Health Information for International Travel. Gershman, M, Staples, JE. Oxford University Press. June 2020. Chapter Four. Available at: wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2018/infectiousdiseases-related-to-travel/yellow-fever. Accessed 21 March 2023.
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5. Kroger A, Bahta L, Long S, Sanchez P. General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization. Best Practices Guidance of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/index.html>. Updated 10 Feb 2023. Accessed 21 March 2023.
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7. CDC. Transmission of yellow fever vaccine virus through breast-feeding—Brazil,2009. MMWR 2010;59(05);130-132. Available at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5905a2.htm. Accessed 21 March 2023.
8. World Health Organization. Vaccine-preventable diseases, Yellow Fever. Available at: <https://www.who.int/teams/immunization-vaccines-and-biologicals/diseases/yellow-fever>. Accessed 21 March 2023.

To request this material in an alternative format (e.g., Braille) or to clarify any part of the above order, contact the Oregon Health Authority Immunization Program at 1-800-980-9431 and 711 for TTY. For other questions, consult with the vaccine recipient’s primary health care provider or a consulting physician.

Electronic copy of this immunization protocol is available at: [immunization protocol](#)

Electronic copy of this pharmacy protocol is available at: [pharmacy protocols](#)