

Model Immunization Protocol

Yellow Fever Vaccine (YF-VAX®)	
Last Reviewed	10 March 2025
Last Revised	10 March 2025
This order expires	31 March 2027

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

More information can be found on [Oregon's yellow fever program and certification website](#).

1. What's new

No new clinical information.

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. Epinephrine hydrochloride solution (1mg/mL) and other appropriate agents and equipment must be available for immediate use in case an anaphylactic or acute hypersensitivity reaction occurs.
- G. Yellow fever vaccine may be given with all other ACIP-recommended child and adult vaccines, including travel vaccines.
- H. Ask client to remain seated on the premises for 15 minutes after vaccination to decrease the risk of injury should they faint.

Health Officer Signature	Date
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3. Vaccine schedule for yellow fever vaccine¹

Dose and Route: 0.5 mL, SQ			
Dose	Preferred age	Minimum acceptable age	Minimum acceptable spacing
1	≥9 months	See Warnings	
Booster [#]			10 years

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

4. Licensed yellow fever vaccine¹

Product Name	Vaccine Components	Acceptable Age Range	Preferred Age
YF-VAX	17D-204 strain of YF virus grown in chicken embryos with gelatin and sorbitol as a stabilizer	≥9 months	≥9 months

5. Recommendations for use ^{2,3}

- 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.

- B. YF vaccine is recommended for persons aged ≥ 9 months who are traveling to or living in areas at risk for yellow fever virus (YFV) transmission in South America or Africa.
- C. Countries or areas with risk of yellow fever transmission can be found on the [CDC Yellow Book website](#).
- D. Proof of YF vaccination (valid International Certificate of Vaccination) may be required for international travel. Some countries require evidence of YF vaccination from all entering travelers or as a condition of entry for travelers arriving from certain countries, even if only in transit, to prevent YF virus importation and transmission. The certificate becomes valid 10 days after vaccination with YF vaccine. Travelers should check the CDC travel recommendations AND each individual country's requirements.
- 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^{1,6}

- A. History of life-threatening allergic reaction to eggs, chicken proteins, gelatin, or a previous yellow fever vaccine.
- B. Infants <6 months of age should not be vaccinated because of the risk of serious postvaccine encephalitis.
- C. History of thymus disorders associated with abnormal immune cell function, such as thymomas or myasthenia gravis.
- D. Symptomatic HIV infection or CD4+ T-lymphocyte values <200/mm³ or <15% total lymphocytes for children <6 years old.
- E. History of primary immunodeficiencies, malignant neoplasms, transplantation, immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory therapies. Persons receiving current or recent radiation therapy or immunosuppressive drugs.

7. Warnings and precautions^{1,2,6}

- A. Age 6–8 months is a precaution to receiving YF vaccine. By 9 months of age, risk for YEL-AND is believed to be substantially lower. ACIP recommends, whenever possible, travel to YF–endemic countries should be postponed or avoided for children aged 6–8 months. If travel is unavoidable, discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination with private provider before immunizing. Medical providers considering vaccinating infants <9 months of age should contact CDC for advice at 800-CDC-INFO(800-232-4636)
- B. 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

- C. 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
- D. 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
- E. Asymptomatic HIV infection with moderate immune suppression, i.e., CD4+ T-lymphocyte values of 200 to 499/mm³ for persons aged ≥6 years old or 15%–24% total lymphocytes for children aged <6 years.²
- F. Postpone vaccination in case of an acute or febrile disease.

8. Other considerations^{1,3,6}

- A. ACIP recommends that a woman wait 4 weeks after receiving the yellow fever vaccine before conceiving.⁶
- B. 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
- C. 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
- D. 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: [Yellow Fever Vaccine & Malaria Prevention Information, by Country](#).

9. Side effects and adverse reactions¹

YF-VAX	
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 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	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>.

12. References

1. YF-VAX® February 2019 package insert. Available at: <https://www.fda.gov/media/76015/download>. Accessed 2 March 2025.
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 2 March 2025.
3. Gershman, M, Staples, JE (2023). Yellow Fever, *CDC Yellow Book 2024: Health Information for International Travel*. Available at:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2024/infections-diseases/yellow-fever#6370> Accessed 2 March 2025.

4. CDC. Notes from the field: Fatal yellow fever vaccine-associated viscerotropic disease—Oregon, September 2014. (2015). 64(10);279-81. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6410.pdf>. Accessed 2 March 2025.
5. General Best Practice Guidelines for Immunization. Available at: [https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-best-practices/?CDC_AAref_Val=Updated 25 July 2024](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-best-practices/?CDC_AAref_Val=Updated+25+July+2024). Accessed 2 March 2025.
6. Yellow fever vaccine. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR 2010. 59(RR07); P 1–32. Available at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5907.pdf. Accessed 2 March 2025.
7. World Health Organization. Vaccine-preventable diseases, Yellow Fever. Available at: <https://www.who.int/teams/immunization-vaccines-and-biologicals/diseases/yellow-fever>. Accessed 2 March 2025.

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:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/preventionwellness/vaccinesimmunization/immunizationproviderresources/pages/stdgordr.aspx>