



**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR  
IMPLEMENTING THE GUIDELINE ON THE  
PREVENTION OF IMPORTATION OF YELLOW FEVER  
INTO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA IN LINE WITH  
THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR  
2005).**

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*Environmental Health Directorate:*

*Murdock Ramathuba & Pam Nkabinde*

*and*

*Communicable Disease Control Directorate:*

*Wayne Ramkrishna & Takalani Nemungadi*

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health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE GUIDELINE ON THE PREVENTION OF IMPORTATION OF YELLOW FEVER INTO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA IN LINE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR 2005).**

### **1. Introduction**

Yellow fever remains the only disease specifically designated under the IHR (2005) for which proof of vaccination may be required for travellers as a condition of entry to the Republic of South Africa. In terms of IHR (2005) countries are to treat travelers with respect for their dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms and minimize any discomfort or distress associated with such measures, including by:

- a) treating all travelers with courtesy and respect;
- b) taking into consideration the gender, socio-cultural, ethnic or religious concerns of travelers; and
- c) providing or arranging, where appropriate, for adequate food and water, appropriate accommodation and clothing, protection for baggage and other possessions, appropriate medical treatment, means of necessary communication if possible in a language that they can understand and other appropriate assistance for travelers who are quarantined, isolated or subject to medical examinations or other procedures for public health purposes.

### **2. Scope**

This document applies to procedures that need to be followed in implementing the Yellow Fever Policy and is applicable to all Port Health Officers responsible for the implementation of the Yellow Fever Guideline in all points of entry.

### **3. Objective**

This document serves to highlight procedures regarding handling of travelers coming into the Republic of South Africa from or through a yellow fever risk country and to ensure a uniform approach in the implementation of the guideline for the Prevention of Yellow Fever Importation into the Republic of South Africa

#### 4. Procedure

If a traveller is coming from a yellow fever risk (regardless of whether the area is Low or High risk) area, the following steps need to be taken simultaneously with the collection of other Health declaration documents:

- a) A Port Health Officer should check the availability of the travellers Yellow Fever certificate and verify the validity of the certificate,
- b) If the certificate is not valid or the traveller does not have the certificate at all, the Port Health Officer will implement the following:
  - i. Make recommendations for Immigration to refuse entry.
    - a. This is applicable to travellers who fail to produce proof of vaccination against Yellow Fever as per section 4.1 of the Yellow Fever guidelines, 2010 or
  - ii. Place the traveller under quarantine.
    - a. This is applicable to travellers who have been granted entry into the country by Immigration Officers after recommendation for refusal of entry by Port Health Official;
    - b. It is also applicable for travellers who cannot be vaccinated against Yellow Fever, due to contra-indications and can produce medical waivers (waiver letter) as per section 5 of the Yellow Fever guidelines; and
    - c. South African citizens as per section 4.2 of the Yellow Fever guidelines, 2010.

For travelers placed under quarantine, the following shall apply.

- Port Health official must interview the traveller on arrival.
- Traveller information must be documented using the Yellow Fever Monitoring Card;
- These travellers must be educated about the symptoms and measures to prevent Yellow Fever;
- May be provided with insect repellent at their own cost;
- A copy of the Yellow Fever monitoring Card must be kept by the Port Health Official and another copy be given to the traveller.
- The traveler must be monitored under quarantine surveillance (*the monitoring of a traveller at a designated health facility for development of Yellow Fever symptoms, for a maximum of six days; and notifying health authorities if any symptom of Yellow Fever develops in the six-day period following the departure from a declared Yellow Fever risk area*) using the issued monitoring card.
- The traveler must deposit the Yellow Fever Monitoring Card at the designated drop off box at the health care facility on the last day of monitoring.
- Travellers with waiver letters and those who have been granted entry into the country by Immigration Officers after recommendation for refusal of entry must be given detailed advice on Yellow Fever illness and protection against mosquito bites, by Port Health Officials, the symptoms are:

- sudden onset of fever, shivers;
- headache, muscle pain with prominent backache, abdominal pains with vomiting;
- nausea or vomiting;
- loss of appetite;
- jaundice; and
- Bleeding from the mouth, nose, eyes or stomach and/or blood in the vomit and faeces.

Travelers placed under quarantine surveillance must also:

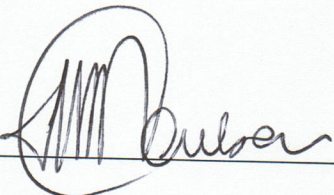
- sign the monitoring card to certify that the information they have provided is true and that they subject themselves to quarantine surveillance; and
- notify health authorities if they develop any symptom of yellow fever in the six-day period following their departure from a declared Yellow Fever risk area.

Anyone suspected or confirmed as having Yellow Fever must be referred to a suitable medical facility. The Provincial CDC Coordinator must be informed of any Yellow Fever case.

**c). Travellers transiting Yellow Fever risk countries**

In line with WHO recommendations, airport transits under 12 hours through the airport of a country with risk of Yellow Fever transmission do not warrant a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate.

Airport transits exceeding 12 hours, through the airport of a country with risk of Yellow Fever transmission requires a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate on entry into South Africa. Travelers entering South Africa via transits exceeding 12 hours without valid Yellow Fever certificates must be treated the same as travelers entering South Africa without a valid Yellow Fever certificate.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.P.R. Cele', is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature is a large, stylized number '1'.

Ms. A.P.R. Cele  
Director: Environmental Health  
Date: