



# health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **ALERT: MALARIA OUTBREAK IN SOUTH AFRICA AND YELLOW FEVER IN BRAZIL**

**24 March 2017**

### 1. Malaria in South Africa.

Malaria Transmission in South Africa follows a seasonal trend, starting to rise in September/October and reducing towards May, with transmission peaks in January and April. The trend of malaria cases increased in all high incidence areas of South Africa (Mpumalanga, Gauteng, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal provinces) during the last three months, December 2016 to February 2017 compared to same period during 2015/16 Financial Year (FY).

During this season, there has been an increase in local transmission of malaria. The total local malaria cases during the 2016/17 FY more than doubled the figures reported during the same period in 2015/16 FY.

The recent upsurge of malaria cases particularly in Limpopo is a cause of concern, given that Limpopo province contributed 72.3% (1900) of the total local malaria transmitted cases reported in the 2016/17 FY. The cases were reported in four districts of Vhembe, Mopani, Capricorn and Waterberg. The malaria Epidemic Preparedness & Response alert and action thresholds were surpassed during the months of January to March 2017.

The following public health interventions are being implemented; indoor residual spraying in Waterberg district with special attention to the localities where there has been an upsurge of local malaria cases, with mop up spraying happening in Mopani and Vhembe. Public awareness is being strengthened through health promotion messages on malaria disseminated through various media sources (focusing at schools and hospitals) and case management strengthened in health facilities.

We advise that the following precautionary measures for malaria be followed by at risk populations and travellers to Limpopo and other high incidence areas of South Africa to ensure they take the correct preventive measures:

- Take an effective malaria prophylaxis. There are several effective preventive drugs. Consult your doctor or travel clinic for the best one for you.
- Wear long trousers and long sleeve shirts between dusk and dawn. Anopheles mosquitoes tend to bite in the nighttime.
- Use mosquito repellents to avoid mosquito bites.
- Consult your doctor and request a malaria test if you develop any flu-like symptoms during or after you have been in a malaria area. While the symptoms normally develop up to 2 weeks after the parasite has entered the body, symptoms of the disease can occur up to 6 months after you have left the malaria area, so never discount the possibility that you could have malaria when feeling ill.
- Get treated immediately with effective anti-malarial drugs if you test positive for malaria. If diagnosed and treated promptly the disease can be cured.

For additional information visit:

<http://www.health.gov.za/index.php/malaria-prevention-treatment-advice>

2. Yellow fever in Brazil

Brazil is experiencing an outbreak of YF and according to WHO report of 20 March 2017, the disease continues to spread in the country. Travelers going to or coming from Brazil to South Africa are required to produce a yellow fever vaccination certificate and observe measures in the following link;

<http://www.who.int/csr/don/20-march-2017-yellow-fever-brazil/en/>

Attached: Revised Yellow Fever vaccination requirements in South Africa.

Kind regards



**DR FG BENSON**

**CHAIRPERSON: NATIONAL OUTBREAK UNIT**

**DATE: 2017/3/27**



health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

30 OCTOBER 2015

To: Consulates  
Embassies  
Government Departments  
Port Health Officials  
Travel Health Clinics

## REVISED YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Yellow fever is an infectious vector-borne disease that is caused by a virus transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito vector such as *Aedes aegypti*. South Africa has a risk of introduction of the disease as the mosquito vector exists in the country.

The South African Department of Health would like to inform you of the amendments to the yellow fever vaccination policy for travellers coming from yellow fever risk countries.

Travellers going to or coming from **Zambia, Tanzania, Eritrea, Somalia, Sao Tome and Principe as well as Rwanda** will no longer be required to produce a yellow fever vaccination certificate when in South Africa as these countries have been included on the World Health Organization (WHO) list of countries with low potential for exposure to yellow fever virus.

During the 136<sup>th</sup> session of the WHO Executive Board meeting, a review of countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and countries requiring yellow fever vaccination was conducted and based on the recommendations of the meeting; all travellers arriving into the country from these countries will **NOT** be required to produce proof of vaccination against Yellow Fever. **This provision is with immediate effect.**

In line with the International Health Regulations, 2005 South Africa requires a valid yellow fever certificate from all citizens and non citizens over one year of age:

- Travelling from a yellow fever risk country; or
- Having been in transit exceeding 12 hours, through the airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission.

The International Health Regulations (2005) requires countries at risk of Yellow Fever introduction to employ the following measures:

1. Obtain vaccination certificates from individuals travelling from areas determined by the WHO to be at risk of Yellow Fever transmission. As a result, South Africa implements the following measures for all travellers from Yellow Fever risk countries who are unable to produce a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate at the point of entry:
  - Refuse entry; or

- Place traveller under quarantine surveillance until their certificate becomes valid, or for a period of not more than six days;
  - Travellers who are in possession of an exemption certificate due to medical reasons will be:
    - Allowed entry;
    - Required to report any fever or other symptoms to the health authorities; and
    - Be placed under quarantine surveillance.
2. Disinsection of aircraft, ships, tyre casing consignments and other modes of transportation coming from a Yellow Fever risk area.

**Definition of a valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate:**

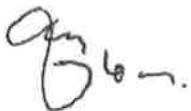
Vaccine should be approved by the WHO and administered at least 10 days before departure to South Africa at a Yellow Fever approved vaccination centre. **The vaccine offers protection 10 days after administration and provides lifetime immunity.**

**List of countries for which a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is required for entry into South Africa:**

AFRICA		CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA
Angola	Guinea	Argentina
Benin	Guinea-Bissau	Bolivia
Burkina Faso	Kenya	Brazil
Burundi	Liberia	Colombia
Cameroon	Mali	Ecuador
Central African Republic	Mauritania	French Guyana
Chad	Niger	Guyana
Congo	Nigeria	Panama
Côte d'Ivoire	Senegal	Paraguay
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sierra Leone	Peru
Equatorial Guinea	Southern Sudan	Suriname
Ethiopia	Sudan	Trinidad and Tobago
Gabon	Togo	Venezuela
Gambia	Uganda	
Ghana		

[http://www.who.int/ith/ITH\\_Annex\\_1.pdf](http://www.who.int/ith/ITH_Annex_1.pdf)

Kind regards



**DR FG BENSON**  
**INTERNATION HEALTH REGULATIONS FOCAL POINT**  
**DATE: 30/10/2015**