**Yellow Fever**

What is yellow fever?
Yellow fever is a Flavivirus. It is in the same family as the Zika, West Nile and dengue viruses. Flaviviruses are spread by infected mosquitoes.

What are the symptoms of yellow fever?
Most people do not have symptoms of yellow fever. However, those that do, typically experience a sudden onset of fever, chills, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting and headache. About 15 of 100 people with symptoms will go on to experience more severe symptoms including jaundice (yellowing of the skin), bleeding and organ failure. About one of every five people with severe symptoms, such as kidney and liver failure, die from the infection.

How is yellow fever transmitted?
Yellow fever is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito.

Where is yellow fever most common?
Yellow fever is most commonly found in the tropics of Africa and South and Central America.

Is yellow fever dangerous?
Each year, about 200,000 people around the world are infected with yellow fever and about 30,000 die.

How is the yellow fever vaccine made?
The yellow fever vaccine is a “live, weakened viral vaccine.” The vaccine virus is weakened by growing it in cells in the lab and then in eggs.

Is the yellow fever vaccine safe?
The vaccine is safe for most people, who will have no or minimal side effects, such as pain at the site of injection, low fever, headache or body aches. See answer to “Who should not get the yellow fever vaccine?” to determine if you are in a group that should not get the vaccine.
Who should get the yellow fever vaccine?

Individuals who live in or are planning to visit areas at risk for yellow fever infection should receive the vaccine. The yellow fever vaccine is not a routinely recommended vaccine in the United States.

Some countries require proof of yellow fever vaccination before entry. If you are planning international travel, check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) travel website, cdc.gov/travel, to see if you will require proof of vaccination during your trip. Only certified yellow fever vaccination providers can administer the vaccine and provide the necessary certification. Travel clinics typically provide this and other important information and services for staying healthy during travel. You can locate a travel clinic near you using the International Society of Travel Medicine clinic locator at istm.org.

Who should not get the yellow fever vaccine?

Individuals who are immune compromised, those with severe egg allergies and infants younger than 6 months should not receive the vaccine. In addition, pregnant or breastfeeding women, parents of infants between 6 and 8 months of age, and adults 60 or older should discuss the risks and benefits of being vaccinated with their healthcare provider.

Are there other ways to be protected other than vaccination?

Yes. While vaccination provides the best protection, taking precautions against being bitten by infected mosquitoes is also prudent, including reducing the amount of time spent in areas with known yellow fever transmission, wearing protective clothing and using insect repellants approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

What is my child’s risk of getting yellow fever?

The risk of contracting yellow fever in the United States is very low. However, parents should be aware that traveling to countries with higher rates of infection increases the risk of contracting yellow fever.

Should my child get vaccinated if we’re not planning on visiting an at-risk country?

Yellow fever vaccine is not routinely recommended in the United States.