

Traveler Vaccinations

The World Health Organization emphasizes that all travelers (domestic and international) should be up to date with routine vaccinations. Travel is a good opportunity for healthcare providers to review the immunization status of infants, children, adolescents, and adults.

Travelers should be advised to check that they have been fully vaccinated against measles, rubella, mumps, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), and poliomyelitis before starting their travel. Non-immunized or incompletely immunized travelers should be offered the routine vaccinations recommended in their national immunization schedules, in addition to those needed for international travel (e.g. yellow fever vaccine).

In keeping with WHO standards, evidence of immunity to measles and rubella for international travelers includes:

- written documentation of having received the measles and rubella vaccines.
- laboratory evidence of rubella and measles immunity (a positive serologic test for the measles and rubella-specific IgG antibodies)

Health and Travel Requirements

I. COVID-19

The requirement for travelers to present a negative COVID test prior to travel to Jamaica ended on 15 April 2022. All travelers arriving in Jamaica may still be tested for COVID-19 if assessed as high-risk as a result of exhibiting symptoms, exposure to people who have tested positive, belonging to a high-risk group, or other risk factors. Travelers may be screened for symptoms at the airport.

II. YELLOW FEVER

Jamaica has a travel requirement in place for Yellow Fever. All persons older than one year, who are travelling from a country where there is a risk of Yellow

Fever transmission, and persons who are transiting through a country with a risk of Yellow Fever transmission for more than twelve hours, are required to show proof of vaccination against Yellow Fever before entering the country. Only individuals travelling from countries with a risk of Yellow fever transmission, as listed on the current World Health Organization (WHO) International Travel and Health website, are required to provide proof of vaccination for entry into Jamaica.

Travellers from the following countries need to show **proof of vaccination against Yellow Fever**:

Angola, Argentina, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, French Guiana, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda and Venezuela.

Recommendations by PAHO/WHO- Vaccination

The yellow fever vaccine is safe and affordable and provides immunity against the disease for 80 to 100% of those vaccinated after 10 days and 99% immunity after 30 days. A single dose provides life-long protection against yellow fever disease. A booster dose of the yellow fever vaccine is not needed. Severe side effects are extremely rare.

There are limitations on the availability of vaccines on the world market and so PAHO/WHO recommends:

- Countries that are not currently experiencing outbreaks should not conduct yellow fever immunization campaigns.
- Travelers to countries at risk of yellow fever transmission should be encouraged to receive the vaccine at least 10 days before traveling and to avoid revaccination.
- Depending on vaccine availabilities, countries should have a small stock that allows them to respond to outbreaks.

III. Travellers from the following countries need to show **proof of vaccination against measles, rubella, and polio: *Albania, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Republic of Slovenia***

IV. Malaria is one of the most important infectious disease threats for travelers. However, there are no travel requirements for Malaria in place for Jamaica. Persons arriving from countries endemic to Malaria will be interviewed at the Health Desk at the airport. Persons who are arriving from countries with a risk for transmission of other Diseases of Public Health concern will be treated as per any restrictions/instructions in place at the time from the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

Note: All travellers to Jamaica are given a **Health Alert Card** on arrival. This card contains relevant contact information for the National Health Authority and instructions to follow in the event they start to exhibit/ develop symptoms.