

Travelers' Health

Vaccinations

Simply looking for which vaccinations you need for your trip? Find the country or countries you plan to visit on the list of destinations.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list.htm>

What You Need to Know About Vaccinations and Travel:

- Have you scheduled a visit to your doctor or a travel medicine provider?
- Are you aware of which types of vaccinations you or those traveling with you may need?
- Do you have altered immunocompetence due to illnesses such as diabetes or HIV?
- Are you pregnant or breastfeeding?
- Are you traveling with infants or children?
- If you haven't looked up our health information for destinations, do so now.

Have you scheduled a visit to your doctor or a travel medicine provider?

Ideally, set one up 4 to 6 weeks before your trip.

Most vaccines take time to become effective in your body and some vaccines must be given in a series over a period of days or sometimes weeks.

If it is less than 4 weeks before you leave, you should still see your doctor. You might still benefit from shots or medications and other information about how to protect yourself from illness and injury while traveling.

Are you aware of which types of vaccinations you or those traveling with you may need?

CDC divides vaccines for travel into three categories: routine, recommended, and required. While your doctor will tell you which ones you should have, it's best to be aware of them ahead of time.

Routine Vaccinations

Be sure that you and your family are up to date on your routine vaccinations. These vaccines are necessary for protection from diseases that are still common in many parts of the world even though they rarely occur in the United States.

Recommended Vaccinations

These vaccines are recommended to protect travelers from illnesses present in other parts of the world and to prevent the importation of infectious diseases across international borders. Which vaccinations you need depends on a number of factors including your destination, whether you will be spending time in rural areas, the season of the year you are traveling, your age, health status, and previous immunizations.

See our destinations page and look up the country or countries you will visit.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list.htm>

Required Vaccinations

The only vaccine required by International Health Regulations is yellow fever vaccination for travel to certain countries in sub-Saharan Africa and tropical South America. Meningococcal vaccination is required by the government of Saudi Arabia for annual travel during the Hajj.

Yellow Fever

Use the Health Information for International Travel information below to determine if you will need a yellow fever certificate, and find a clinic that can give the vaccination and issue the certificate.

- Yellow Fever (disease, vaccination, and vaccination certificate information)

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2012/chapter-3-infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/yellow-fever.htm>

- Yellow fever vaccination recommendations by country

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2012/chapter-3-infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/yellow-fever-and-malaria-information-by-country.htm>

Search by region at the top of this page or see our Destinations page to find the country or countries you will visit.

There may be other health information you should know to help prepare you for your trip, such as food and water safety, avoiding insects, and more.

For Healthcare Providers

- Vaccination information from Health Information for International Travel: General Recommendations for Vaccination and Immunoprophylaxis

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2012/chapter-2-the-pre-travel-consultation/general-recommendations-for-vaccination-and-immunoprophylaxis.htm>

- Yellow Fever (disease, vaccination, and vaccination certificate information) Routine vaccinations and how they can be modified before travel if necessary.

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2012/chapter-3-infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/yellow-fever.htm>