



THE TRAVEL CLINIC

A STAMARIL Center
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ABOUT YELLOW FEVER VACCINE

You have decided to travel to Africa or South America where yellow fever (YF) is a concern. A friend, trip outfitter, cruise trip company or your travel agent has brought up the question about whether you need YF vaccine. You have heard there is a current YF vaccine shortage and don't know where to get this vaccine.

You need to understand several things about YF and YF vaccine.

- Yellow fever (YF) concepts are easily misunderstood.
- YF is transmitted by mosquitoes. There are frequently other mosquito transmitted diseases in the same area, including malaria and dengue. DEET insect repellent should be used on exposed skin twice daily. Consider permethrin impregnated clothing.
- There is a difference between RECOMMENDED and REQUIRED with respect to whether YF vaccine is a consideration for travel to a given country..
- Those who receive YF vaccine will also receive a YF vaccine certificate, a legal document which will enable certain border crossings under some circumstances.
- In certain situations, a waiver letter of medical exemption may satisfy some administrative requirements without receiving YF vaccine.
- If you want to understand how the shortage came to be, you may review the "YF vaccine situation" behind the red button at the bottom of the first page of our website.
- A replacement imported French YF vaccine, Stamaril, is available during this shortage under an Investigational New Drug protocol monitored by the FDA like a research study. Stamaril clinics now number fewer than 10% of previous YF-VAX clinics. You may look behind the yellow button "YF clinics" at the bottom of the first page of our website for lists of Oregon Stamaril clinics. There is also a list of known prior YF-VAX clinics, which should be a resource for general travel medical advice, including a recommendation whether a YF vaccine should be given. YF-VAX clinics cannot dispense any YF vaccine, including Stamaril.
- Until the YF vaccine shortage is over, Oregon Stamaril clinics will be limited to five in the Portland area and one in Eugene (yellow button).
- YF vaccine is effective in 10 days, is 99.99% protective and is good for life.
- YF vaccine is not inexpensive.
- YF vaccine is a live virus vaccine and can cause a YF-like illness as a side effect. This side effect is extremely rare (estimated 0.00025% to 0.0025%), but may be serious, especially in those over age 60. This side effect has a 50% fatality rate..
- If you contract YF disease, the fatality rate is also 50%.
- Consider reviewing this CDC document:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2018/infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/yellow-fever>.