

# Yellow Fever

## Fact Sheet

### **What is yellow fever?**

Yellow fever is a viral disease that is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes. It occurs in tropical regions of Africa and in parts of South America.

### **What are the symptoms of yellow fever?**

Illness ranges in severity from an influenza-like syndrome to severe hepatitis and hemorrhagic fever. Many yellow fever infections are mild but the disease can cause severe life-threatening conditions. Symptoms include high fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, vomiting and diarrhea. After a brief recovery period the infection can lead to shock, bleeding, and kidney and liver failure.

### **What are the risks to travellers?**

A traveller's risk of acquiring yellow fever is determined by various factors including immunization status, location of travel, season, duration of exposure, occupational and recreational activities while travelling, and the local rate of virus transmission at the time of travel.

### **How can you protect yourself?**

Yellow fever can be prevented by vaccination. Travellers should avoid mosquito bites when travelling in tropical areas by wearing protective clothing and using appropriate insect repellents.

### **Other Questions?**

Talk to your health care provider or call our Communicable Disease Program at 613-966-5500 x349. Toll Free 1-800-267-2803 | TTY Dial 711 (1-800-267-6511) | [www.hpepublichealth.ca](http://www.hpepublichealth.ca)

### **Reference**

- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Yellow Fever, November 2007.

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