

Standard Operating Procedure for Yellow Fever Vaccination Exemption Certificate

Travelers, particularly those arriving to Asia from Africa or Latin America (Those from Yellow fever endemic countries) must have a certificate of yellow fever vaccination. If there are medical grounds for not getting vaccinated, International Health Regulations state that this must be certified by the appropriate authorities.

Medical conditions where YF vaccination is contraindicated (where exemption certificate can be issued) are:

- Children aged less than 9 months (or between 6–9 months during an epidemic, where the risk of disease is higher than an adverse event of the vaccine);
- Pregnant women – (except during a yellow fever outbreak when the risk of infection is high);
- People with severe allergies to egg protein; and
- People with severe immunodeficiency due to symptomatic HIV/AIDS or other causes, or in the presence of a thymus disorder.

Procedure to be followed:

- The exemption certificate can be issued only by the Medical officer of the Designated Yellow fever vaccination center. (charges for issue of an exemption certificate will be the same as that for YF vaccination)
- Every person who wants to get an Exemption certificate has to submit a certificate from the treating doctor/specialist about the medical condition/criteria (as mentioned above) on the basis of which the exemption certificate can be issued.
- This certificate from the treating doctor/specialist about the medical condition/criteria will form the basis of issuing the Exemption certificate. The certificate must also bear the official stamp of the administering centre; however, this shall not be an accepted substitute for the signature.
- The Medical officer/authorized health person shall inform such persons of any risk associated with non-vaccination and with the non-use of prophylaxis in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 23.
- It should be informed clearly to the concerned person that such an exemption certificate will not give him immunity from the quarantine and also that the concerned person can be put under quarantine as per the rules of the visiting country (including India)

Record maintenance:

A separate register will be maintained at the POEs with all records of the travelers who have been given the Yellow Fever Vaccination Exemption Certificate. This will also be informed to DDG/ADG (IH) periodically in monthly/quarterly/annual report.

Validity of the Certificate:

A Yellow Fever Vaccination Exemption Certificate will only be considered valid if issued by a Government Identified Yellow Fever Vaccination Center, bearing the Signature of the Medical Officer and the stamp of the Yellow Fever Vaccination Center.