About yellow fever

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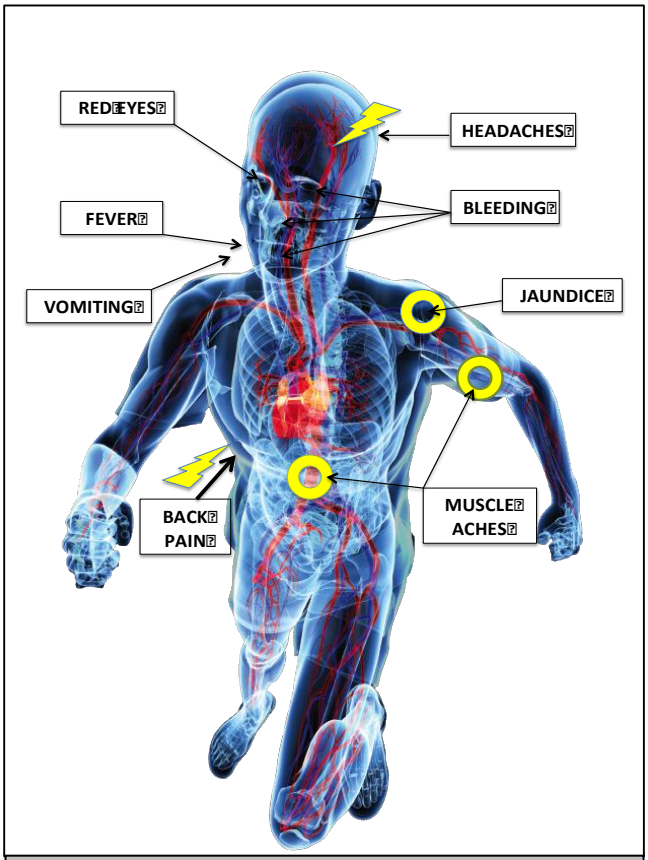
- Yellow fever is transmitted to humans by infected daytime biting mosquitoes. The disease is common in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa.[1]
- Yellow fever draws its name from serious cases during which the skin turns yellow.
- One-in-two untreated people severely affected by yellow fever will die from the disease.[2]
- Supportive care is the only treatment available once infected with yellow fever.[2]
- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates 200,000 people are infected each year with yellow fever, of which 30,000 will die.[2]
- The illness develops within six days of being bitten by an infected mosquito.[2]
- Symptoms include fever, severe headaches, back pain, general body aches, nausea, vomiting and fatigue.[2]
- Around 15 per cent of patients enter a second, more toxic phase of the disease, when jaundice and kidney failure can occur.[2]
- Visible bleeding, jaundice, kidney and liver failure can all occur as a result of yellow fever.[2]
- Like many mosquito-borne diseases, yellow fever is a hemorrhagic virus that is transmitted by the Aedes species of biting mosquitoes and can also be passed on to mosquito offspring by infected eggs.[2]



Symptoms of yellow fever include red eyes, headaches, fever, bleeding, vomiting, jaundice, muscle aches & back pain.[2]

Current situation

- Yellow fever, a potentially fatal disease spread by infected mosquitoes, is re-emerging in parts of Brazil where it had been dormant for several decades.[3,4,5,6,7,8]
- Over the past 20 years the number of cases have increased due to declining population immunity to infection, deforestation, urbanisation, population movements and climate change.[2,5]
- An effective yellow fever vaccine has been available for more than half a century, but the number of people infected globally has re-emerged as a major public health concern.[2]
- The number of reported deaths from yellow fever among travellers over the past decade has increased, and may continue to rise unless yellow fever vaccine is appropriately used.[9,10]
- Although Brazil successfully controlled urban transmission of yellow fever in the 1940s through vector control and vaccination, re-establishment of the Aedes aegypti species of biting mosquito in urban areas has resulted in recurrent epidemics of dengue fever, and poses a risk of outbreaks of urban yellow fever.[11,12,13]
- Since February 2008, the state of Sao Paulo has reported 25 yellow fever cases, including nine deaths. To contain the outbreak, yellow fever vaccination has been increased among travellers.[14]

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Risk groups

- Overseas travellers have up to a 50 per cent chance of experiencing a travel-related disease, including infectious but vaccine-preventable diseases like yellow fever, rabies, Japanese encephalitis, meningitis and more.[10]
- Those travelling to Brazil for the 2014 FIFA World Cup are at risk of contracting yellow fever if proper precautions, including vaccination are not heeded.
- A risk of contracting yellow fever exists in several Brazilian cities hosting the FIFA World Cup, including Belo Horizonte, Brasilia, Manaus, Cuiaba and Porto Algere.[10,15]

A risk of contracting yellow fever exists in several Brazilian cities hosting the 2014 FIFA World Cup. *Source: 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil*

- Many Western travellers, including Australians, do not consult a health professional before travelling and may be unaware of their need to protect themselves from infectious diseases.[16]
- The risk of an Australian traveller acquiring a disease depends on the country or countries they plan to visit, the local prevalence of that disease and several other factors including age, immunisation status, current state of health, travel duration, style of travel and travel itinerary.[17]
- People at increased risk of some travel-related illnesses may include:
- Pregnant women;
- Children;
- People with impaired immunity; and
- Recent immigrants when returning to their country-of-origin to visit family and friends.[18]

Prevention

- Vaccination is the most important preventative measure against yellow fever.[2]
- Only approved travel health clinics can administer the compulsory yellow fever vaccine, which must be given at least 10 days prior to travelling.[1]
- With few exceptions, vaccination is recommended to all travellers to countries or areas where there is a risk of yellow fever transmission.[1]
- A yellow fever vaccination certificate is valid for 10 years and takes effect 10 days after vaccination.[19]
- Exemption certificates are available from a travel doctor for those unable to have the vaccination for medical reasons, including infants, pregnant-women and the immuno-compromised.[1]

Brazil yellow fever endemic areas. *Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*

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For more information about yellow fever or other travel-related diseases, please contact Kirsten Bruce or Ruby Archis from VIVA! Communications on 0401 717 566 / 0413 834 906.

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