

Leah, 29 & Mark, 28

Soccer fans & partners vaccinated against yellow fever in preparation for FIFA World Cup in Brazil, Brisbane

Public servant, Leah, 29, and technical officer, Mark, 28, Brisbane, are both avid soccer fans and supporters of local team, Roar Football Club. They are planning to travel throughout South America this coming June to July for nine weeks, of which they will spend five weeks travelling around Brazil for the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

Leah and Mark have visited their local travel health clinic in preparation for their overseas trip.



This is their story.

Having previously visited Brazil, Leah is cognisant of the high risk of contracting yellow fever, although she knew little about the disease until visiting Dr Deb's Travel Medicine Clinic in Brisbane, where both she and Mark were vaccinated against the virus two months before their departure.

"Although I don't know much about yellow fever, the fact that the vaccination is compulsory in countries such as Brazil screams, 'This is serious,'" said Leah.

Mark attended his first FIFA World Cup in Germany in 2006. However this will be his first trip to a country endemic to yellow fever. So he too knew very little about the potentially life-threatening mosquito-borne disease until visiting his local travel health clinic.

"Since visiting the Travel Medicine Clinic in Brisbane, I've become much more aware about the severity of yellow fever and ways in which you can take precautions, including vaccination," Mark said.

Although Leah was vaccinated against yellow fever for her first trip to Brazil, this was more than 10 years ago, so re-vaccination was required.

Many of the areas the couple will be visiting on their upcoming trip to Brazil are considered 'high-risk' for yellow fever, according to the Brazil Ministry of Health.

"After our initial four weeks of travelling throughout other regions of South America, we plan to move onto Brazil and to visit areas such as Iguacu Falls, Sao Paulo, Cuiaba, Porto Alegre, Curitiba, Florianopolis, Fortaleza, Salvador and finally Rio de Janeiro," Mark said.

"This is our first FIFA World Cup and we're huge soccer fans, so we're really excited!" said Leah.

"Being protected against yellow fever will provide us with peace of mind, allowing us to really enjoy our trip."

ends#

For more information, or to coordinate an interview with Mark and Leah, please contact Kirsten Bruce or Ruby Archis from VIVA! Communications 0401 717 566 / 041 834 906.