

**Travel Vaccines: Know Before You Go
Additional Q&A**

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General Questions

Can all travel vaccines be administered on the same day? If not, what would you recommend?

Yes, all vaccines can be administered on the same day, except if you are considering administering multiple live, attenuated parenteral vaccines, then I would try to space these doses by 2 weeks apart.

How far in advance, prior to travel, should a traveler receive vaccines?

I always inform the traveler "the earlier, the better." Ideally, travelers should seek medical advice at least 4-6 weeks before departure as many vaccines require multiple doses/visits.

Where can I find information about health issues related to specific destinations?

Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Travel Health Notices webpage: wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices and the World Health Organization site: www.who.int/ith/en/.

Hepatitis A

Given that natives of some developing countries likely had a hepatitis A (HAV) infection as a child, do you recommend vaccination in the absence of lab-confirmed infection? How do you recommend handling patients with a history of disease?

For those who may have had naturally acquired immunity but status is unknown, we can reference how refugees coming into the US are handled, which is a "conservative" approach that requires vaccinations to be administered and documented. There is no risk to safety with "over" vaccinating against HAV. Another option is to check for serum titers and if titers are present, you can assume protection. If titers are absent, you could recommend vaccination with the 2-dose series.

Japanese Encephalitis

Since the incidence of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) is relatively low, do you recommend vaccination to everyone traveling to South Asia?

No, the recommendation to vaccinate is an outcome of the risks (includes risk of disease and burden of cost of vaccine) versus benefits of being vaccinated (protection and peace of mind). For those travelers that are "risk adverse," I will vaccinate. The vaccine is rather safe.

Rabies

Which travelers should get vaccinated against rabies?

Those at high-risk for rabies include families, especially with young children, that will be residing in non-industrialized countries for prolonged periods (several months to years), especially if the residence will be in a rural setting. Veterinary workers conducting wild-life work or research in remote settings for prolonged periods and "ultra-adventurous" travelers who plan to hike, camp, etc. in remote areas should also consider getting vaccinated.

Typhoid

Do you recommend typhoid vaccination when someone is travelling in less than 2 weeks? Will patients receive partial protection from vaccines given last minute before travel?

For short-notice travelers, provide injectable typhoid vaccination as antibodies (and thereby protection) arise about 10-14 days post-vaccination, which is just-in-time for this scenario. Oral typhoid vaccination takes 6 days to complete and thus the onset of protection (which begins 10-14 days post-vaccination) will be 16-20 days from the visit, meaning that the onset of vaccine-induced protection does not begin until their trip has already begun.

What is the current recommendation for booster vaccines of Typhim Vi® at age 2 years and Vivotif® at age 5 years per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Vaccine Information Statement? Where can I find additional information?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved injectable typhoid for individuals age 2 years and older and the oral, attenuated typhoid vaccine for age 6 years and older. Studies have been performed demonstrating oral typhoid vaccination can be done successfully in younger children, but since there is an alternative (i.e., injectable vaccine) I adhere to the licensed age ranges. Additional information from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) most recent recommendations is available in the March 27, 2015 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report available at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6411a4.htm?s_cid=mm6411a4_w. Additionally, CDC has patient-friendly information available at: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/.

Yellow Fever

Some countries require proof of yellow fever vaccination. Who provides this letter?

It is completed by the healthcare provider who is authorized to administer yellow fever vaccine. The letter should include the center/clinic's official yellow fever vaccination stamp.

A 70 year old patient has a certificate of vaccination that is now expired. Should we encourage them to get re-vaccinated to address concerns that they may not be allowed to travel into other countries without the vaccination, e.g., Uganda?

In May 2014, the WHO World Health Assembly changed the validity of the certificate of vaccination to lifetime (i.e., no booster doses are necessary any longer). This change was to be legally enacted upon in June 2016 according to International Health Regulations. So, I would not re-vaccinate but to obviate the realistic scenario that some countries are slower to adopt current regulations, you may provide a "letter of exemption" to the patient noting that the basis of the exemption for the traveler is that they are older than 60 years of age.

If a person became immunocompromised, should they be re-vaccinated with yellow fever vaccine?

If the traveler has already received a single dose of yellow fever vaccine, then a booster dose is not required.

Additional Information:

Please refer to the respective ACIP recommendations regarding Travelers Health available at: wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list/.