



Ministry of Health & Wellness PRESS STATEMENT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS ADVISES TRAVELLERS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST YELLOW FEVER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NASSAU, The Bahamas – October 5, 2026 - The Ministry of Health & Wellness is advising Bahamians travelling internationally, particularly to areas of **Africa and Central and South America** where there is a risk of yellow fever transmission, to take appropriate precautions before and during travel. Yellow fever is a potentially serious viral disease transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito. It is not spread directly from person to person through ordinary contact.

TRAVELLERS ARE ADVISED TO:

- Check their destination before travelling, including areas they are transiting through for requirements. Yellow fever risk and vaccination requirements vary by country and, in some cases, by region within a country.
- Consult a healthcare provider or authorized vaccination centre well in advance of their departure to determine whether a yellow fever vaccination is recommended or required.
- Where a vaccination is recommended, travelers should ideally receive the vaccine at least ten (10) days prior to travel, particularly when an International Certificate of Vaccination is required for entry. Travelers are also advised to carry the appropriate International Certificate of Vaccination (yellow card).

- Follow mosquito bite prevention protocols.

The Bahamas in keeping with World Health Organization (WHO) standards advises vaccinations for persons aged nine months and older who are travelling to areas where there is yellow fever transmission, subject to individual medical considerations. A single dose of an approved yellow fever vaccine generally provides lifelong protection.

Travelers who develop fever or other symptoms consistent with Yellow Fever during travel or following their return from an area where yellow fever occurs should seek medical attention promptly. Symptoms usually develop three to six days after infection and include fever, severe headache muscle and back pain, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, weakness or fatigue. Most people who develop symptoms recover within several days; however, a small proportion develop severe disease which can be life threatening. Warning signs of a more serious issue can include the return of a high fever, yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice), dark urine, abdominal pain, vomiting, bleeding and organ failure.

There is no specific antiviral treatment for yellow fever; as medical care can only focus on symptoms. Vaccination remains the most effective means of prevention,

The Ministry of Health & Wellness continues to monitor regional and international development in collaboration with its public-health partners. Travelers are encouraged to remain informed, get vaccinated and take steps to prevent mosquito bites.

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