

The Yellow Fever Vaccine

Like most health care decisions, one should be well informed when deciding whether or not to receive the Yellow Fever Vaccine. This decision is a personal one and should be based on your own personal risk benefit analysis. However, please understand that Deerfield Academy follows the CDC’s recommendations and requires all students going on this trip to receive Yellow Fever Vaccine.

The relative risks of disease exposure and potential complications

Yellow fever is a potentially fatal, mosquito borne illness that is found in the tropics, specifically areas of South/Central America and Africa. Although it is impossible to know the chances that any traveler will develop Yellow Fever on a given trip, the following is from the CDC Yellow Book, a trusted source for advice on travel related vaccinations:

“From 1970 through 2011, a total of 9 cases of yellow fever were reported in unvaccinated travelers from the United States and Europe who traveled to West Africa (5 cases) or South America (4 cases). Eight (89%) of these 9 travelers died. There has been only 1 documented case of yellow fever in a vaccinated traveler. This nonfatal case occurred in a traveler from Spain who visited several West African countries in 1988.

The risk of acquiring yellow fever is difficult to predict because of variations in ecologic determinants of virus transmission. For a 2-week stay, the risks for illness and death due to yellow fever for an unvaccinated traveler visiting an endemic area in:

- *West Africa are 50 per 100,000 and 10 per 100,000, respectively*
- *South America are 5 per 100,000 and 1 per 100,000, respectively”*

In addition to looking at reported incidence of disease in travelers, experts believe the risk depends on how long the traveler will be in an area at risk and the degree to which they take measures to avoid mosquito bites.

Our Trip

The CDC recommends yellow fever vaccine for areas included on this trip’s itinerary. Please review the following website for details:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/yellow-fever>

In addition, please consider that remembering to and being willing to apply insect repellent, wear long sleeves and pants or to carefully enclose the mosquito net at night is not necessarily a character trait of all adolescent travelers.

The Vaccine

The vaccine is a single dose immunization that should be given at least 10 days before entering an area of Yellow Fever risk and provides lifetime immunity. In making this decision, you should consider the pros and the cons, and, as with any risk benefit analysis, your own tolerance for risk. We have listed some (but not all) of the important pros and cons of the vaccine below to help you in making your decision. Please also review this link from the CDC regarding the vaccine:

<https://www.cdc.gov/yellowfever/vaccine/index.html>

PROS	CONS
Protects against Yellow Fever, a serious tropical mosquito-borne disease with fatality rate of 20%	Cost = approximately \$250 (less if reimbursed by insurance)

A vaccine before this trip will provide lifelong protection from yellow fever

Documentation of this vaccine will allow you to travel into countries that require this vaccine for entry

Unlike mosquito bite avoidance measures, the vaccine offers protection against Yellow Fever if mosquito bites do occur due to failure to apply insect repellent, wear appropriate clothing or a failure or absence of anticipated mosquito avoidance measures in the place of lodging

There is a low but measurable risk of life-threatening adverse reactions to this vaccine:

Life threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis)	1:55,000
Severe nervous system reaction	1:125,000
Life-threatening severe illness with organ failure (50% mortality)	1:250,000

25% of recipients of his vaccine may experience fever and body aches, as well as soreness, redness or swelling where the shot was given that can last up to a week.

Please consider the risk that Yellow Fever poses to your child on this trip, read the [Vaccine Information Statement \(VIS\)](#) that accompanies this document and consider the pros and cons. Then please **CHECK ONE of the statements below, complete the form and sign it.** Please call or email if you have any questions.

Please administer to my child, _____, the Yellow Fever Vaccine. If the FDA-approved vaccine, YF-Vax, is not available I will allow my child to receive the alternative Yellow Fever vaccine, Stamaril which I understand is not FDA-approved but made available through the FDA ING program. I have read the Yellow Fever Vaccine Information Statement and have had an opportunity to ask questions about the risks and benefits of vaccination.

Please DO NOT administer to my child, _____, the Yellow Fever Vaccine.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date: _____