



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
OF UGANDA

What you need to know about **YELLOW FEVER**

Question & Answer



World Health
Organization

unicef 

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1. What is Yellow Fever?

Yellow fever is a viral infection that is spread to humans through a bite from a mosquito carrying the Yellow Fever virus. It causes fever, yellowing of the eyes and bleeding from any body openings such as mouth, nose, eyes, ears etc. The “yellow” in the name refers to the jaundice (Nkaka) that affects some patients.

2. What are the signs and symptoms of Yellow Fever?

After three to six days of infection with the Yellow Fever virus the following signs and symptoms usually appear:

- Rapid onset fever
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhoea
- Vomiting
- General body weakness
- Yellowing of the eyes
- Loss of appetite
- Bleeding from any body openings

Some patients may develop yellow eyes, abdominal pain, bleeding from the mouth, nose, eyes and stomach.

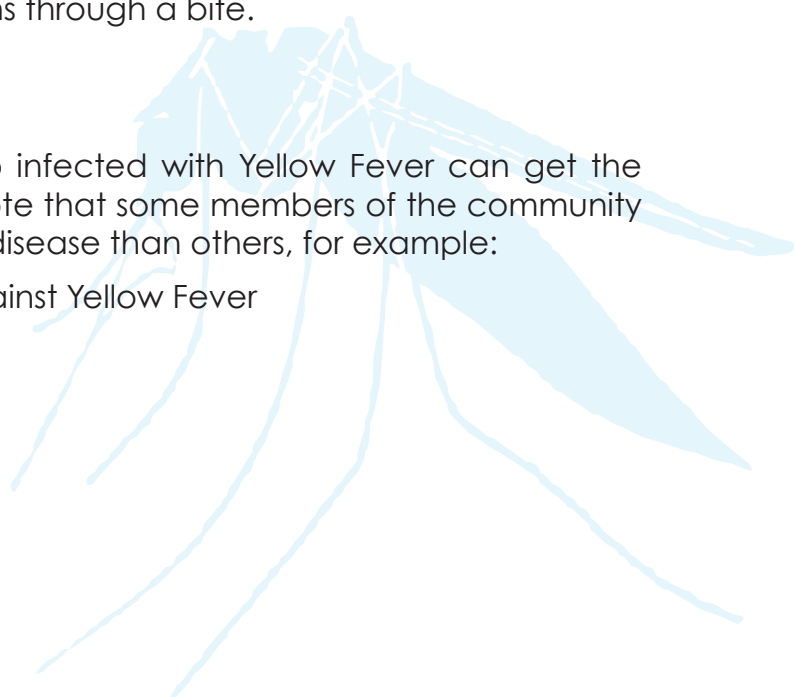
3. How is Yellow Fever spread?

The Yellow Fever virus is spread by mosquitoes. Mosquitoes carrying the Yellow Fever virus transmit the virus to humans through a bite.

4. Who is at risk of getting Yellow Fever?

Anyone who is bitten by a mosquito infected with Yellow Fever can get the disease. However it is important to note that some members of the community may be more at risk of catching the disease than others, for example:

- anyone who is not immunised against Yellow Fever
- people who work or live in forests



5. How is Yellow Fever treated?

There is no specific treatment for Yellow Fever. Health workers can only offer supportive treatment to treat dehydration and fever. Bacterial infections linked to the diseases can be treated with antibiotics. It is important to seek early treatment when symptoms show.

6. How can Yellow Fever be prevented?

- **Vaccination** is the most important preventive measure against Yellow Fever. The vaccine is **SAFE** and **HIGHLY EFFECTIVE**. A single dose of Yellow Fever vaccine provides sustained life-long protection. .
- **Mosquito control** is also important in preventing Yellow Fever. People must avoid being bitten by reducing or eliminating potential mosquito breeding sites such as open containers, stagnant water and bushes around homes. In addition, sleep under treated mosquito nets every night.
- **Personal protection**: wear long sleeve shirts or blouses, trousers, long dresses and long skirts

7. Should everyone in the community/country be vaccinated against Yellow Fever?

If resources allow, everyone from a community or country where a case has been confirmed in a laboratory should be vaccinated. However, the following people should **NOT** be vaccinated:

- Babies aged less than 6 months
- Pregnant women **except** during a Yellow Fever outbreak when the risk of infection is high

8. Role of Community Leaders and Community Health Workers.

Every community leader or community health worker such as Village Health Team members should actively educate communities on the signs & symptoms, mode of spread and prevention of Yellow Fever.

REMEMBER, WITH EVERYONE'S PARTICIPATION, YELLOW FEVER CAN BE PREVENTED FROM SPREADING IN THE COMMUNITY.

**For more information, please contact
the District Health Office or nearest health facility**

