



Health Advisory: New WHO Polio Vaccination Requirement for Travel

Minnesota Department of Health Tue June 3 12:50 CDT 2014

Action Steps:

Local and tribal health departments: Please forward to general practice clinics, travel clinics, and hospitals in your jurisdiction.

Clinics and Hospitals: Please forward to healthcare providers who provide vaccinations to travelers.

Clinicians:

Due to new WHO (World Health Organization) recommendations, clinicians that serve U.S. travelers to countries where poliovirus is circulating should ensure that these travelers have received polio vaccination or polio booster vaccination (within the past 12 months).

- Check vaccination history and vaccinate, if needed.
- Inform travelers that if they don't have documentation of recent polio vaccination (within the past 12 months) they may have to get a dose while in-country.
- Record documentation of vaccination in the yellow International Certificate of Vaccination (see link below) to avoid delays in transit.

Full Health Advisory from CDC:

[CDC Health Advisory: Guidance to US Clinicians Regarding New WHO Polio Vaccination Requirements for Travel by Residents of and Long-term Visitors to Countries with Active Polio Transmission](#)

Background

On May 5, 2014, WHO declared that the spread of polio is a public health emergency of international concern.

New polio vaccination requirements are possible for persons traveling to/from Cameroon, Pakistan, Syria (Syrian Arab Republic), Afghanistan, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Somalia, and Nigeria. Individual countries are responsible for implementing WHO recommendations.

WHO is recommending that the countries of **Cameroon, Pakistan and Syria require** and provide polio vaccination to residents and long-term visitors who are:

- Residing in-country and do not have documentation of polio vaccination within the past 12 months.
- Departing from the country and do not have documentation of polio vaccination within the past 12 months.

WHO is recommending that the countries of **Afghanistan, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Somalia, and Nigeria ensure** polio vaccination to residents and long-term visitors who are:

- Residing in-country and do not have documentation of polio vaccination within the past 12 months.
- Departing from the country and do not have documentation of polio vaccination within the past 12 months.

Resources:

Yellow Book Travel recommendations for polio: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2014/chapter-3-infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/poliomyelitis>

Links to the yellow International Certificate of Vaccination: http://www.who.int/ihr/ports_airports/icvp/en/