

**SHOAL BAY & ANNA BAY MEDICAL CENTRES  
TRAVEL MEDICINE ALLIANCE  
YELLOW FEVER VACCINE**

- A Yellow Fever vaccine certificate is needed for travel in/out of some countries.
- 200,000 cases of Yellow Fever are estimated to occur yearly on this planet.
- There is no known treatment to cure the disease.
- The fatality rate from the disease is reported as 10-50%.
- Deaths from Yellow Fever disease have occurred in unvaccinated tourists.

***Over 300 million doses of vaccine have been given over 60 years.***

YF vaccine is a safe and highly effective vaccine against this deadly disease. Australians receive about 24,000 doses per year. Serious side effects are extremely rare, HOWEVER the risks of vaccination are not zero.

The current best estimates of the risk from yellow fever vaccination are:

***Mild Side Effects***

- Most people will get a slight sore arm
- 2-10% may feel tired, headache, muscle aches, fever for 24 hours starting 3-9 days after the vaccine
- 1% need to curtail regular activities

***More Serious Side Effects***

- **Anaphylaxis;** 1.8 cases per 100,000 doses administered; hence need to wait in clinic 30 minutes after vaccination
- **Inflammation of the brain;** 0.8 per 100,000 doses administered. Increased in older persons; 60-69 years = 1.6 //  $\geq 70$  years = 2.3 per 100,000 doses
- **Inflammation of multiple organs;** 0.4 cases per 100,000 doses of vaccine administered: 60-69 years = 1 //  $\geq 70$  years = 2.3 per 100,000 doses
- There have been deaths reported from the more serious side effects of the YF vaccine – the expected frequency is one death in Australia every 16 years.

The following may increase your risk of reacting badly to the Yellow Fever Vaccine. It is important you notify the staff member if any of the following apply to you.

1. Are you allergic to eggs?
2. Have you had a reaction to Yellow Fever Vaccine before?
3. Could you be HIV positive or have AIDS?
4. Do you suffer a serious weakness of the immune system?
5. Do you have cancer or take drugs to control this?
6. Do you have any major liver or kidney disease?
7. Have you had problems with your thymus (immune gland behind breastbone) eg myasthenia gravis, thymoma, or thymectomy
8. Have you ever been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis?
9. Are you currently taking steroid or cortisone tablets?  
(NOT a problem if joint injection, creams, or puffers. Prednisone < 20mg per day is safe)

**WOMEN ONLY Are you breastfeeding?**

**Could you be pregnant now or in the next 2 weeks?**

***Whilst you wait in the clinic for 30 minutes after the vaccine -***

Please notify staff immediately if you feel anything unusual, especially:

Warm            Itchy            Faint            Short of Breath