

Health Requirements and Recommendations for Travelers to Saudi Arabia for Umrah and Visit - 1446H (2025)

The Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has issued this document to outline health requirements and recommendations for individuals planning to travel to Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah, visit either or both Holy Mosques, or visit Umrah areas¹ during 1446H (2025). The requirements and recommendations were developed based on the most recent risk-assessment and global epidemiological situation.

1 Required vaccines:

	Vaccine	Target Group	Approved Vaccines
1	Meningococcal meningitis	All travelers intending to perform Umrah, 1 year and older, from all countries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meningococcal ACYWXX (Polysaccharide conjugate) vaccine, or Meningococcal quadrivalent (ACYW-135) polysaccharide vaccine, received within the last 3 years and at least 10 days prior to arrival. 2. Meningococcal quadrivalent (ACYW-135) conjugated² vaccine, received within the last 5 years and at least 10 days prior to arrival. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health authorities at the country of origin must ensure the administration of vaccine within the validity period and clearly indicate the name, type, and date of administration on the traveler's vaccination certificate. If the type of the vaccine is not indicated on the certificate, the vaccine would be considered valid for 3 years only from the date of administration.
2	Poliomyelitis	All travelers from states reporting cases of WPV1, cVDPV1 or cVDPV3 <i>(Appendix 1, Table 1)</i>	At least one dose of bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) ³ .
		All travelers from states reporting positive cVDPV2 from human samples or acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases <i>(Appendix 1, Table 2)</i>	At least one dose of (IPV) ³ . If (IPV) is not available , a certificate of vaccination with at least one dose of type 2 containing oral polio vaccine, (including novel OPV2) (OPV) ⁴ is accepted .
3	Yellow fever	All travelers, older than 9 months, from countries or areas at risk of yellow fever transmission <i>(Appendix 2)</i>	Yellow fever vaccine (noting that the yellow fever vaccination certificate is valid for life starting 10 days after vaccination).

¹ Umrah areas in Saudi Arabia are Makkah, Madinah, Jeddah, and Taif.

² Current evidence suggests that meningococcal conjugate vaccines are safe and effective for those older than 55 years.

³ It is recommended to receive (IPV) dose within the previous 12 months and administered not less than 4 weeks prior to arrival to Saudi Arabia.

⁴ It is recommended to receive (OPV) dose within the previous 6 months and administered not less than 4 weeks prior to arrival to Saudi Arabia.

2 Recommended vaccines:

	Vaccine	Target Group	Approved Vaccines
1	SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19)	All travelers intending to perform Umrah	Vaccinated according to the updated WHO SAGE Roadmap for COVID-19 vaccines https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Vaccines-SAGE-Prioritization-2023.1
2	Seasonal Influenza	All travelers intending to perform Umrah	Updated seasonal influenza vaccines for 2024-2025 season
3	Poliomyelitis	All travelers from states reporting positive cVDPV2 from environmental samples (Appendix 1, Table 3)	At least one dose of (IPV) ³ . If (IPV) is not available, it is recommended to be vaccinated with at least one dose of type 2 containing (including novel OPV2) oral polio vaccine (OPV) ⁴ .

3 Preventive health measures taken at points of entry in Saudi Arabia by health authorities:

	Health Measures	Target Countries
1	Health authorities at points of entry may administer meningitis prophylactic antibiotics for those arriving to Hajj and Umrah areas ¹ based on to risk assessment.	Countries with frequent outbreaks of meningococcal meningitis, countries at risk for meningitis outbreaks, and countries with outbreaks of non-vaccine serogroups of <i>N. meningitidis</i> (Appendix 3)
2	Health authorities at the points of entry may opt to administer one dose of bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) for those arriving to Hajj and Umrah areas ¹ according to risk assessment.	States reporting cases of WPV1, cVDPV1, or cVDPV3 regardless of traveler age and vaccination status (Appendix 1, Table 1)
3	Presenting a valid certificate proving that disinsection, deration, and/or other control measures were performed in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005). Health authorities at points of entry may subject any means of transport to health inspection to ensure that it is free of disease vectors.	Aircrafts, ships, and other conveyances arriving from countries or areas affected by yellow fever, Zika virus, and/or dengue fever (Appendix 2 and 4)
4	Health authorities at the points of entry may conduct symptoms screening and health triaging for cases of diarrhea in incoming travelers. Cholera rapid test may be used if needed, and administration of preventive therapy whenever needed.	Pilgrims arriving from countries affected by cholera outbreaks

4 Health practices for prevention of conditions of concern:

4.1 General recommendation:

Pilgrims with chronic conditions are advised to carry documentation detailing their medical condition, in addition to carrying sufficient quantities of their medications while ensuring that medications are kept in their original packaging.

Pilgrims are recommended to be up to date with routine immunization schedules including: diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis, Poliomyelitis, measles, Chickenpox, mumps, as well as required vaccination as indicated above.

4.2 Respiratory infectious diseases:

All arriving travelers for Umrah or for visit are advised to comply with following:

- Wash hands with soap and water or a disinfectant, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Use disposable tissues when coughing or sneezing, and dispose of used tissues in a wastebasket.
- Wear regular face masks when in crowded places.
- Avoid contact with those who appear ill and avoid sharing their personal belongings.
- Avoid visits and contact with camels in farms, markets, or barns.

4.3 Food and Water-Borne Diseases

Pilgrims are advised to observe the following:

- Wash hands before and after eating and after using toilets, before handling food, and after touching animals.
- Thoroughly clean and wash fresh vegetables and fruit.
- Cook food thoroughly and store at safe temperatures.
- Keep raw and cooked food separated.
- Avoid drinking unpasteurized milk or eating raw meat or animal products that have not been thoroughly cooked.

4.4 Heat-Related Conditions

Pilgrims, especially older individuals, are advised to avoid direct sun exposure while performing rituals and to drink sufficient amount of fluids. Countries are encouraged to educate their pilgrims on health-related illnesses prior to travel. Medications that can exacerbate dehydration (e.g. diuretics) or interfere with heat exchange may need adjustment by treating physicians.

4.5 Zika Virus Disease and Dengue Fever

Pilgrims are advised to take necessary measures to avoid mosquito bites during the day and evening, which include wearing protective clothing (preferably light-colored) that covers as much of the body as possible; using physical barriers such as window screens and closed doors; and applying insect repellent (as per the label instructions on the product) to skin or clothing that contains DEET, IR3535 or Icaridin.

5 Responding to international health events:

In the case of a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) or any event subject to notification under the International Health Regulations (2005), health authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will undertake all additional necessary measures in consultation with the WHO.

Appendix 1:

Table 1: States reporting cases of WPV1, cVDPV1, or cVDPV3 as of issue date of this document:

WP1: Afghanistan - Pakistan

cVDPV1: Mozambique – Democratic Republic of the Congo

cVDPV3: Guinea

Table 2: States reporting cVDPV2 positive human sources samples or Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases and from which travelers are required to provide proof of vaccination as of issue date of this document:

Africa: Angola – Benin - Burkina Faso – Cameron - Central African Republic – Chad - Democratic Republic of the Congo – Ethiopia – Guinea – Kenya – Liberia – Mali – Mauritania - Niger – Nigeria – Republic of the Congo - Sierra Leone – Somalia - South Sudan - Tanzania

Others: Indonesia - Palestine - Yemen

Table 3: States reporting positive environmental sources samples of cVDPV2 and from which travelers are recommended to be vaccinated as of issue date of this document:

Africa: Algeria – Angola - Chad - Côte d'Ivoire – Djibouti - Egypt - Equatorial Guinea – Ethiopia – Ghana – Gambia – Kenya – Liberia – Mozambique – Niger - Nigeria – Senegal - Sierra Leone – Somalia - South Sudan – Sudan - Uganda - Zimbabwe

Others: Palestine - Spain - Yemen

Appendix 2:

Countries/areas at risk of Yellow Fever transmission, as per the WHO International Travel and Health Guidelines as of issue date of this document:

Africa: Angola – Benin - Burkina Faso – Burundi – Cameroon - Central African Republic – Chad – Congo - Côte d'Ivoire - Democratic Republic of the Congo - Equatorial Guinea – Ethiopia - Gabon - Gambia, Ghana – Guinea – Guinea Bissau – Kenya – Liberia – Mali – Mauritania – Niger- Nigeria – Senegal -Sierra Leone - South Sudan – Sudan –Togo - Uganda

South America: Argentina - Bolivia – Brazil – Colombia - Ecuador - French Guiana – Guyana – Panama – Paraguay – Peru – Suriname - Venezuela

Appendix 3:

Countries/areas with frequent outbreaks of meningococcal meningitis and countries at risk for meningitis outbreaks as of issue date of this document:

Africa: Benin - Burkina Faso – Burundi – Cameroon - Central African Republic – Chad - Côte d’Ivoire - Democratic Republic of the Congo – Eritrea – Ethiopia - Gambia - Ghana -Guinea - Guinea Bissau – Kenya – Mali – Mauritania – Niger - Nigeria - South Sudan – Rwanda – Senegal – Sudan - Tanzania, Togo - Uganda

Appendix 4:

Countries affected with Dengue and/or Zika as of issue date of this document:

Africa: Angola – Benin - Burkina Faso - Cabo Verde – Cameroon - Central African Republic - Côte d’Ivoire - Djibouti, Egypt – Eritrea – Ethiopia – Gabon – Ghana – Guinea – Kenya – Liberia – Mali - Mauritania – Mauritius – Niger – Nigeria - São Tomé – Príncipe – Senegal – Somalia – Sudan – Seychelles – Togo - Uganda

Americas: Anguilla - Antigua and Barbuda – Argentina - The Bahamas – Barbados – Belize – Bolivia – Bonaire – Brazil - The British Virgin Islands - Cayman Islands – Colombia - Costa Rica - Cuba - Curaçao - Dominica - Dominican Republic – Ecuador - El Salvador – Europe - French Guiana – Grenada – Guadeloupe – Guatemala – Guyana- Haiti – Honduras – Al safah Island – Jamaica – Martinique – Mexico – Montserrat – Nicaragua – Panama – Paraguay – Peru - Puerto Rico - Saint Barthelemy - Saint Kitts and Nevis - Saint Lucia - Saint Martin - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines - Sint Eustatius and Saba - Suriname - Trinidad and Tobago - Turks and Caicos Island – The US Virgin Islands - Venezuela

Asia: Bangladesh - Cambodia - Cook Islands - French Polynesia – Fiji – India – Indonesia- Laos – Maldives – Malaysia - Marshall Islands – Micronesia – Myanmar – Palau - Papua New Guinea – Philippines – Samoa - Singapore - Solomon Islands - Sri Lanka – Thailand – Tonga – Vanuatu - Vietnam