

Health Requirements and Guidelines for Travelers to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for Hajj 1444 AH (2023 AD)

The Ministry of Health in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia issues this document to clarify the health requirements and guidelines related to those coming to the Kingdom to perform Hajj or seasonal work in the Hajj areas¹ for the season of 1444 AH (2023 AD).

1. Mandatory Vaccinations

Vaccination	Target Group	Target Countries	Approved Vaccine
(COVID-19)	All those wishing to perform Hajj	All countries	https://www.moh.gov.sa/HealthAwareness/Pilgrims/Health/Approved-Vaccines/Pages/Outside-the-Kingdom.aspx
Neisseria Meningitis Fever	All those wishing to perform Hajj or be present in the Hajj areas for any purpose, including adults and children aged one year and above.	All countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quadrivalent (ACYW) polysaccharide vaccine - shall not exceed three years since receiving the vaccine. • Conjugate Quadrivalent (ACYW) vaccine² - shall not exceed five years since receiving the vaccine. • The health authorities in the country from which the pilgrim is coming must ensure that they receive the vaccine at the specified time and clearly write the name of the vaccine used and the date of administration in the vaccination certificate. If the type of the quadrivalent vaccine is not specified in the immunization certificate, the validity period of the vaccination certificate will be considered three years from the date of vaccination.
Polio	All arrivals	Countries where wild Poliovirus or Circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus	At least one dose of Bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV) or Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) ³ .

¹ The Hajj areas include Makkah, Madinah, Jeddah and Taif

² Scientific evidence indicates that the conjugate vaccine is effective and safe for those aged 55 years and older.

³ It is recommended to receive a dose of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) within a period not less than 4 weeks and not more than 12 months before coming to the Kingdom.

		(cVDPV1) is present (Annex 1, Table 1).	
Polio	All arrivals	Countries where positive results for Circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) have been reported in human samples or Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases (Annex 1, Table 2).	At least one dose of Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV), and if it is not available, proof of having received at least one dose of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) ⁴ can be accepted.
Yellow Fever	All arrivals who are over 9 months old.	Countries and areas where yellow fever is endemic (Annex 2).	Yellow fever vaccine. Note that the yellow fever vaccination certificate becomes valid 10 days after receiving the vaccine and remains valid for life.

2. Recommended Vaccinations

Vaccination	Target Group	Target Countries	Approved Vaccine
Polio	All arrivals	Countries where positive results for circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were reported from environmental	At least one dose of inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) ⁵ is recommended. In case IPV is not available, at least one dose of oral polio vaccine (OPV) ⁶ is recommended.

⁴ It is recommended to receive a dose of oral polio vaccine (OPV) within a period not less than 4 weeks and not more than 6 months before coming to the Kingdom.

⁵ It is recommended to receive a dose of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) at least 4 weeks and not more than 12 months before coming to the Kingdom.

⁶ It is recommended to receive a dose of oral polio vaccine (OPV) within a period of not less than 4 weeks and not more than 6 months before coming to the Kingdom.

		samples (Annex 1 - Table 3)"	
Seasonal Influenza	All those coming for Hajj or seasonal work or for any other purpose in the Hajj areas, especially pregnant women, children under the age of 5, the elderly, those with chronic diseases (such as heart, respiratory, kidney, metabolic, neurological, liver or blood diseases), and individuals with immunosuppressive conditions (such as HIV/AIDS, tumors, receiving chemotherapy or immunosuppressants).	All countries	Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

3. Preventive measures by the Ministry of Health at entry points to the Kingdom

Illness	Target Countries	Preventive Measures
(COVID-19)	All Countries	Compliance with the procedures and requirements required by the Public Health Authority, which can be accessed through the link (https://covid19.cdc.gov.sa/). Please note that these requirements are continuously updated.
Neisseria Meningitidis Fever	Countries where outbreaks occur with the bacteria that cause Neisseria meningitidis and countries at risk of outbreaks with Neisseria meningitidis bacteria and countries where outbreaks of non-vaccine serogroups of Neisseria meningitidis occur (Annex 3)	Administering antibiotics at entry points for those coming to Hajj areas.
Polio	Countries where wild poliovirus or circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus	Administering a single dose of the bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) at entry points to the

	type 1 (cVDPV1) is circulating (Annex 1 Table 1), regardless of age or vaccination history.	Kingdom.
Yellow Fever	All airplanes, ships, and other means of transportation coming from countries and regions where yellow fever is prevalent (Annex 2).	A valid certificate indicating that disinfection has been carried out in accordance with the guidelines recommended by the World Health Organization should be provided. The Ministry of Health has the right to subject any means of transportation to health inspection to ensure that it is free of disease carriers.
Dengue fever and Zika virus	All planes, ships, and other means of transportation coming from countries affected by the Zika virus and/or dengue fever (Annex 4).	A valid certificate indicating that sanitation has been carried out according to the guidelines recommended by the World Health Organization is required. The Ministry of Health has the right to subject any means of transportation to health inspection to ensure that they are free of disease vectors.

4. Health Advice and Guidelines:

4.1. Physical Ability, Chronic Diseases, and Health Awareness

- The Ministry of Health recommends that countries sending pilgrims to Hajj take into consideration a minimum level of physical ability for the pilgrims. It also recommends being aware of the high risk of infectious diseases for the elderly and those with severe chronic illnesses such as advanced cancer, heart, respiratory, liver, kidney diseases, or aging.
- The Ministry of Health recommends that those coming for Hajj or seasonal work or for any other purpose in the Hajj areas and are suffering from chronic diseases to bring with them their medical records and medications they are taking, and to carry enough of these medications in their original packaging.
- The Ministry of Health recommends that those coming for Hajj or seasonal work or for any other purpose in the Hajj areas should update their vaccinations against targeted diseases, such as diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, rubella, meningitis, and hepatitis.

4.2 Respiratory Infectious Diseases:

Those coming for Hajj or seasonal work or for any other purpose in the Hajj areas are advised to follow the following health guidelines:

- Wash hands with soap and water or sanitizer, especially after coughing and sneezing, using the toilet, preparing and eating food, and touching animals.
- Use tissues when coughing or sneezing and dispose of them in a waste basket.
- Wear masks when in crowded places and change them when they become wet.
- Avoid direct contact with people who show signs of illness and avoid sharing their personal items.
- Avoid direct contact with camels in farms, markets, or barns and avoid drinking unpasteurized milk or eating raw meats or animal products that have not been properly cooked.

4.3 Water and Food-Borne Diseases:

Authorities in the Kingdom prohibit the entry of food items with those coming for Hajj, except for canned foods prepared for personal use in small quantities and in easily inspected containers.

Those coming for Hajj or seasonal work or for any other purpose in the Hajj areas are advised to follow the following health guidelines:

- Clean hands before and after eating and after using the toilet.
- Wash fresh vegetables and fruits thoroughly.
- Cook food thoroughly and store food at safe temperatures.
- Do not eat cooked food left uncovered or stored outside the refrigerator.

4.4 Heat Stress and Heat Stroke:

Those coming for Hajj or seasonal work in the Hajj areas, especially the elderly, are advised to avoid direct exposure to sunlight and to drink sufficient amounts of fluids. The Ministry of Health also recommends that countries sending pilgrims provide education and information on ways to avoid heat stress. Pilgrims who take medications that may worsen dehydration (such as diuretics) are advised to consult with their treating physician before Hajj.

4.5 Dengue Fever and Zika Virus:

Those coming for Hajj or seasonal work or for any other purpose in the Hajj areas are advised to take necessary measures and precautions to avoid mosquito bites, including wearing protective clothing (preferably light-colored) and covering as much of the body as possible, using physical barriers such as closed windows and doors, and using insect repellents (according to the instructions on the product label) on the skin or on clothing containing (DEET) or (IR3535) or (Icaridin).

5. International Health Events Response:

In the event of a global public health emergency or an outbreak of a disease subject to the International Health Regulations (2005) in any country from which Hajj pilgrims arrive, the Ministry of Health will take

additional measures, in coordination with the World Health Organization. These measures will be in addition to those mentioned above.

6. Accompanying Medical Offices for Hajj Affairs Offices:

The Ministry of Health requires that the accompanying medical offices for Hajj Affairs offices comply with the following technical requirements:

- The number of physicians accompanying the medical office shall be at least one physician per (1000) pilgrims.
- Public health physicians shall represent at least (20%) of the total number of physicians in the medical office.
- Each medical office must contract through its affiliated Hajj Affairs office with an approved and specialized domestic waste transport company to cover the period of the office's work during the Hajj season.
- Each medical office must provide at least one room to isolate cases suspected of infectious diseases in the medical clinics' headquarters.
- Medical offices must comply with the mandatory reporting of infectious diseases in the Saudi health system using approved reporting methods.

Annex (1):

Table 1: Countries where wild poliovirus or circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV1) is present:

WP1	cVDPV1
Afghanistan	Madagascar
Mozambique	Mozambique
Pakistan	Democratic Republic of Congo
	Malawi
	Yemen
	Congo

Table 2: Countries where positive results for circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) have been reported in human samples or cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), and those arriving from these countries are required to provide a proof of vaccination:

cVDPV2		
Benin	Ethiopia	Cameroon
Central African Republic	Somalia	Chad
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mozambique	Yemen
Algeria	Niger	Sudan
Togo	Nigeria	Ghana
United States of America	Indonesia	Mali

Table 3: Countries where positive results for Circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) have been reported in samples taken from environmental resources:

cVDPV2		
Britain	Botswana	Canada
Zambia	Cote d'Ivoire	Egypt
Palestine	Djibouti	

Source:

Polio Eradication Organization report on March 7, 2023.

Annex (2):

Countries and areas where yellow fever is endemic, according to the World Health Organization International Travel and Health Guide:

Africa		Americas	
Angola	Niger	Argentina	Guyana
Benin	Nigeria	Venezuela	Panama
Burkina Faso	Senegal	Bolivia	Paraguay
Burundi	Sierra Leone	Brazil	Peru
Cameroon	Mauritania	Colombia	Suriname
Central African Republic	South Sudan	Ecuador	Trinidad and Tobago
Chad	Togo	French Guiana	
Congo	Uganda		
Côte d'Ivoire	Gabon		
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Gambia		
Equatorial Guinea	Ghana		
Ethiopia	Guinea-Bissau		
Guinea	Kenya		
Liberia	Mali		
Sudan			

Annex (3):

Countries with reported outbreaks of *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria that cause meningococcal fever, and countries at risk of outbreaks of *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria (International Health and Travel, World Health Organization 2015):

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

Annex (4):

Countries affected by Zika virus and/or Dengue fever.

Americas		Asia		
Anguilla	Dominica	Bangladesh	Fiji	Vietnam
Antigua and Barbuda	Dominican Republic	India	French Polynesia	Papua New Guinea
Argentina	Ecuador	Indonesia	Laos	Philippines
Aruba	El Salvador	Maldives	Marshall Islands	Samoa
Bahamas	French Guiana	Myanmar	Malaysia	Singapore
Barbados	Grenada	Thailand	United States Micronesia	Solomon Islands
Belize	Guadeloupe	Cambodia	New Caledonia	Tonga
Bolivia	Guatemala	Cook Islands	Palau	Vanuatu
Bonaire	Guyana	Africa		
Sint Eustatius and Saba	Haiti	Angola	Ethiopia	
Brazil	Honduras	Burkina Faso	Gabon	
British Virgin Islands	Easter Island - Chile	Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	
Cayman Islands	Jamaica	Cape Verde	Nigeria	
Colombia	Martinique	Cameroon	Senegal	
Costa Rica	Mexico	Central African Republic	Uganda	
Cuba	Montserrat	Cote d'Ivoire		
Curacao	Nicaragua			
Panama	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines			
Paraguay	Saint Martin			
Peru	Suriname			
Puerto Rico	Trinidad and Tobago			
Saint Barthelemy	Turks and Caicos Islands			
Saint Kitts and Nevis	United States Virgin Islands			
Saint Lucia	Venezuela			
Saint Martin				