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Yellow fever cases in travellers

Cases of yellow fever in unvaccinated travellers who travelled to risk areas in Brazil have been reported recently

The yellow fever outbreak in Brazil that began in 2016 was declared over in September 2017. However, a surge of human cases since December 2017, and in non-human primate epizootics (cases in monkeys) since September 2017, have been reported. This indicates a resurgence of yellow fever virus circulation in Brazil, particularly in São Paulo state [1].

Cases of yellow fever in unvaccinated travellers who travelled to risk areas in Brazil have also been reported recently. On 22 January 2018, the World Health Organization reported a confirmed case of yellow fever in an unvaccinated returned traveller in the Netherlands who visited Atibaia and Mairiporã in São Paulo state, Brazil from 19 December 2017 to 8 January 2018 [2].

On 14 February 2018, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control reported a confirmed case of yellow fever in an unvaccinated French traveller who visited Brumadinho in Minas Gerais state, Brazil [3].

On 19 February 2018, the Ministry of Health of Argentina reported a confirmed case of yellow fever in an unvaccinated traveller who visited Ilha Grande in Rio de Janeiro state and Ilhabela in Sao Paulo state, Brazil [4].

On 20 February 2018, two fatal cases of yellow fever were reported in returned Chilean travellers who visited Ilha Grande in Rio de Janeiro state, Brazil. A third case, who also visited Ilha Grande at the same time, is in a stable condition in hospital [5].

Advice for travellers

[Yellow fever](#) is spread to humans via the bite of an infected mosquito. You should take [insect bite avoidance measures](#), day and night, when visiting countries with a risk of any disease transmitted by insects.

If you are travelling to areas of risk of yellow fever in Brazil both [mosquito bite avoidance](#) and vaccination are recommended for your personal protection. Full details of yellow fever vaccination recommendations for countries can be found on our [Country Information pages](#).

[Map: Areas of risk for yellow fever in Brazil](#)

Details of countries that require proof of yellow fever vaccination as a condition of entry under the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) are also provided. Travellers are reminded that countries may change their certificate requirements at short notice.

Advice for health professionals

When undertaking yellow fever risk assessment, health professionals should refer to individual

[Country Information pages](#) which provide detail relating to risk areas, recommendation for yellow fever vaccine and IHR (2005) certificate requirements are available. Some travellers may require vaccine for certificate purposes.

A [map showing the current areas where yellow fever vaccine is recommended in Brazil](#) is available from the European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC).

Health professionals are also encouraged to access the [Outbreak Surveillance Database](#) where the details of outbreaks are posted.

Resources

- [Pan American Health Organization: Yellow Fever – Epidemiological Update](#)
- [TravelHealthPro: Yellow fever](#)
- [WHO: Yellow fever](#)

References

1. [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Rapid risk assessment: Outbreak of yellow fever in Brazil, Second update. 18 January 2018. \[Accessed 27 February 2018\].](#)
2. [World Health Organization. Disease outbreak news. Yellow fever – Brazil. 22 January 2018. \[Accessed 27 February 2018\].](#)
3. [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Communicable Disease Threats Report, Week 8, 18 – 24 February 2018. 23 February 2018. \[Accessed 27 February 2018\].](#)
4. [Ministry of Health Argentina. ALERTA Epidemiológica: Caso de fiebre amarilla importado de Brasil en Argentina. 19 February 2018. \[Accessed 27 February 2018\].](#)
5. [Pro MED. Yellow fever - Americas: Brazil. 20 February 2018. \[Accessed 27 February 2018\].](#)