

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

The Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia issued this document to indicate 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).

1 Required vaccines:

The Ministry of Health require providing document(s) indicating receiving the following vaccine(s):

	Vaccine	Target Group	Approved Vaccines
1	Meningococcal meningitis	All travelers intending to perform Umrah, 1 year and older, from all countries	1. Meningococcal quadrivalent (ACYW-135) polysaccharide vaccine, received within the last 3 years and at least 10 days prior to arrival; or 2. Meningococcal quadrivalent (ACYW-135) conjugated² vaccine, received within the last 5 years and at least 10 days prior to arrival. • Health authorities at the country of origin should ensure that the traveler receive the approved vaccine within the above 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 or cVDPV1 (Appendix 1, Table 1)	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 (Appendix 1, Table 2)	At least one dose of (IPV) ³ . If (IPV) is not available , a certificate of vaccination with at least one dose of oral polio vaccine (OPV) ⁴ is accepted .
3	Yellow fever	All travelers, older than 9 months, from countries or areas at risk of yellow fever transmission (Appendix 2)	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:

The Ministry of Health recommend that Umrah pilgrims and visitors to receive the following vaccines:

	Vaccine	Target Group	Approved Vaccines
1	SARS-COV-2 (COVID-19)	All travelers intending to perform Umrah	Updated and recommended COVID-19 vaccines in the Umrah pilgrim's country of origin.
2	Seasonal Influenza	All travelers intending to perform Umrah	Recommended seasonal influenza vaccines in the Umrah pilgrim's country of origin.
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 the oral polio vaccine (OPV) ⁴ .
4	Other vaccine-preventable diseases	All travelers intending to perform Umrah	Umrah pilgrims are recommended to be up to date with routine childhood or recommended adult immunization schedules including: 1. Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. 2. Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). 3. Poliomyelitis. 4. Chickenpox.

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

	Health Measures	Target Countries
1	The health authorities at the points of entry in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia may decide to give meningococcal antibiotics as prophylaxis for those arriving to Umrah areas ¹ according to risk assessment.	Countries with frequent epidemics of meningococcal meningitis, countries at risk for meningitis epidemics, and countries with outbreaks of non-vaccine serogroups of <i>N. meningitidis</i> (Appendix 3)
2	The health authorities at the points of entry in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia may decide to give one dose of bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) for those arriving to Umrah areas ¹ according to risk assessment.	States reporting cases of WPV1 or cVDPV1 regardless of traveler age and vaccination status (Appendix 1, Table 1)
3	Presenting a valid certificate proving that disinfection was carried out in accordance with the International Health Regulations (2005). The health authorities at the points of entry in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the right to subject any means of transport to health inspection to ensure that it is free of insect vectors of human diseases.	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 General health recommendations:

4.1. Physical and mental ability:

The Ministry of Health recommends that the countries from which the Umrah pilgrim comes to take into account that Umrah pilgrims are free of illnesses or disabilities that limit the minimally required level of physical and mental ability, including conditions that would restrict the Umrah pilgrim from performing Umrah rituals, and they are as follows:

- Advanced kidney failure that requires hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis.
- Advanced heart failure with symptoms appear at rest or with minimal physical exertion.
- Chronic lung diseases that require intermittent or continuous use of oxygen.
- Advanced cirrhosis accompanied by signs of liver failure such as ascites, variceal bleeding, and episodes of decreased or loss of consciousness.
- Severe neurological and psychological diseases that impair cognition or are accompanied by severe motor disabilities.
- Advanced age accompanied by dementia.
- The last two months of pregnancy, and high-risk pregnancy at all stages of pregnancy.
- Active infectious diseases that have public health implications in mass gatherings (such as open pulmonary tuberculosis and hemorrhagic fevers).
- Patients with active cancer receiving chemotherapy.

4.2. Chronic diseases:

The Ministry of Health recommends that Umrah pilgrims with chronic diseases visit health care providers before traveling for Umrah, and bring with them documents of their health condition and a sufficient quantity of the medications they are taking in their original packaging.

4.3. Respiratory infections and vector-, food-, and water-borne diseases:

Umrah pilgrims and visitors are advised to adhere to the following health instructions:

- Wash hands with soap and water or use disinfectants especially after coughing and sneezing, after using the toilet, before preparing and eating food, and after touching animals.
- Use tissues when coughing or sneezing and dispose them properly in trash bins.
- Wear mask while performing Umrah rituals and in crowded places. Masks should be changed with dry ones when they get wet.
- Avoid direct contact with people who show symptoms of disease, and avoid sharing their personal tools.
- Avoid direct contact with camels on farms, markets, or barns; and avoid drinking unpasteurized milk or eating raw meat or animal products that have not been cooked well.
- Cook food well, keep food at safe temperatures, and do not eat uncovered cooked foods or those stored outside the refrigerator.
- Do not sleep outdoors, and use mosquito repellent products when needed.

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) in the Umrah traveler's country of origin, the Ministry of Health will undertake all additional necessary measures in consultation with international organizations.

Appendix 1:

Table 1: States reporting cases of WPV1 or cVDPV1 as the date of issuance of this document:

WP1: Afghanistan and Pakistan
cVDPV1: Mozambique, DR Congo and Yemen

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 the date of issuance of this document:

Africa: Nigeria, Kenya, Mali, Chad, South Sudan, DR Congo, Guinea, Somalia, Benin, Niger, Angola, Cameron, Ethiopia and Liberia.
Others: Indonesia, Palestine and Yemen

Table 3: States reporting positive Environmental Sources samples of cVDPV2 and from which travelers are recommended to be vaccinated as the date of issuance of this document:

Africa: Algeria, Angola, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe
Others: Palestine, Spain and Yemen

Appendix 2:

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

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

Appendix 3:

Countries/areas with frequent epidemics of meningococcal meningitis and countries at risk for meningitis epidemics as the date of issuance of this document:

Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda
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Appendix 4:

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

Africa: Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda and Sudan

Americas: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Europa, AL Bahama, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Bonaire, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Sint Eustatius and Saba, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Caiman Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curaçao, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Isla de Pasqua – Chelsea, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grindins, Saint Martin, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos, US Virgin Islands and Venezuela

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