

Health Requirements and Recommendations for Travelers to Saudi Arabia for Hajj - 1447H (2026)

The health authorities of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has issued this document to outline health requirements and vaccines related to individuals planning to travel to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj, or seasonal work in Hajj areas¹ during 1447H (2026).

1 Capability and diseases affecting public health:

Counties from which pilgrims arrive are required to declare that pilgrims are free of illnesses that contradict with minimum requirement for physical ability to conduct the Hajj, including illnesses that typically impede pilgrims from carrying out the rituals, as follow:

- Failure of a major organ (kidney failure requiring dialysis, heart failure with symptoms on minimal physical effort, chronic lung diseases requiring intermittent or continuous oxygen use, liver cirrhosis accompanied by signs of liver failure).
- Severe neurological and psychiatric disorders that impair cognition or are accompanied by severe physical disabilities.
- Senility accompanied by dementia.
- Pregnancy in the last three months or high-risk pregnancy at any stage.
- Active infectious diseases that pose a public health risk in crowded settings (such as open pulmonary tuberculosis and hemorrhagic fevers).
- Active cancer patients on chemotherapy or other therapies that severely suppress the immune system.

2 Required vaccines:

2.1 Meningococcal meningitis:

All individuals intending to perform Hajj or seasonal work in Hajj areas, from all countries, are required to vaccinated with any of the following vaccines (including the serogroup ACYW) before travelling to Saudi Arabia:

1. Meningococcal quadrivalent (ACYW) conjugate² vaccine, or Meningococcal pentavalent (ACYWX) conjugate vaccine, received within the last 5 years and at least 10 days prior to arrival.
2. Meningococcal quadrivalent (ACYW) polysaccharide vaccine, received within the last 3 years and at least 10 days prior to arrival.

**Health authorities at the country of origin must ensure pilgrims' vaccination within validity period and clearly indicate the vaccine name, and date of administration on 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.*

2.2 Coronavirus (COVID-19):

Individuals from specific groups intending to perform Hajj or seasonal work in Hajj areas, from all countries are required to have proof of vaccine/immunity against COVID-19 before travelling to Saudi Arabia while not conflicting with health requirements outlined in (1), with at least one of the following:

1. A single dose of the updated COVID-19 vaccines for 2025-2026 season; or
2. Completion of primary vaccination series (two or more doses received during the years 2021 to 2024); or
3. Laboratory-confirmed recovery from COVID-19 infection during the year 2025.

¹ Hajj areas are Makkah, Madinah, Jeddah, and Taif.

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

2.3 Poliomyelitis

All individuals arriving from the following countries (table 1):

WP1: Afghanistan – Pakistan
cVDPV1: Mozambique – DR Congo
cVDPV3: Guinea

Are required to be vaccinated with any of the following vaccines before travelling to Saudi Arabia: At least one dose of bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV)³.

Target group: All individuals arriving to Saudi Arabia from target countries, regardless of age of prior vaccine status.

All individuals arriving from the following countries (table 2):

Africa: Angola – Benin – Burkina Faso – Cameroon – Central African Republic – Chad – Congo – DR Congo – Ethiopia – Guinea – Kenya – Liberia – Mali – Mauritania – Niger – Nigeria – Sierra Leone – Somalia – South Sudan – Tanzania
Others: Indonesia – Palestine – Yemen

Are required to be vaccinated before travelling to Saudi Arabia: 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.

Target group: All individuals arriving to Saudi Arabia from target countries, regardless of age of prior vaccine status.

2.4 Yellow fever

All individuals arriving from the following countries (table 3):

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

Are required to be vaccinated before travelling to Saudi Arabia: noting that the yellow fever vaccination certificate is valid for life starting 10 days after vaccination.

Target group: All individuals arriving to Saudi Arabia from target countries, older than 9 months.

3 Preventive measures at points of entry:

Health authorities at points of entry in Saudi Arabia may undertake additional preventive measures for those arriving from target countries based on to risk assessment.

4 Health recommendations and guidance:

4.1 General recommendations:

Pilgrims with chronic conditions are advised to carry documentation detailing their medical condition, in addition to carrying sufficient quantities of their medications while in original packaging. Countries from which pilgrims arise are advised to utilize (International Patient Summary) to allow exchange of minimum data required for healthcare provision during Hajj.

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:

Pilgrims 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.

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.

- Wear regular face masks when performing rituals and 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 Seasonal influenza:

All travelers intending to perform Hajj are advised to receive the updated seasonal influenza vaccines for 2025-2026 season before travelling to Saudi Arabia.

4.4 Coronavirus (COVID-19):

All travelers intending to perform Hajj are advised to be 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>

4.5 Poliomyelitis:

All individuals arriving from the following countries (table 4):

<p>Africa: Algeria – Angola – Chad – Côte d’Ivoire – Djibouti – Equatorial Guinea – Egypt – Ethiopia – Gambia – Ghana – Kenya – Liberia – Mozambique – Niger – Nigeria – Senegal – Sierra Leone – Somalia – South Sudan – Sudan – Uganda – Zimbabwe</p> <p>Others: Palestine – Spain – Yemen</p>
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Are advised to be vaccinated before travelling to Saudi Arabia: At least one dose of (IPV). 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) is accepted.

4.6 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.
- Avoid consuming canned food if cans appear dented, rusted, or leaking. Immediately discard canned food if foamy or smell funny when opened.

4.7 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.

4.8 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