

Vaccines and Medicines for Travelers to South Africa

Source: [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) & [CDC Yellow Book 2020](#)

Check the vaccines and medicines list below and visit your doctor (ideally, 4-6 weeks) before your trip to get vaccines or medicines you may need.

ALL TRAVELERS	
You should be up to date on routine vaccinations while traveling to any destination. Some vaccines may also be required for travel.	
Routine vaccines	Make sure you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. These vaccines include COVID-19, measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu (influenza) vaccination.
Hepatitis A	CDC recommends this vaccine because you can get Hepatitis A through contaminated food or water in South Africa, regardless of where you are eating or staying. Hep A is a two-shot series, separated by six months. Although, there is approximately 90% immunity after receiving the first shot.
Hepatitis B	CDC recommended for unvaccinated travelers of all ages to South Africa. You can get hepatitis B through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products.
MOST TRAVELERS	
Get travel vaccines and medicines because there is a risk of these diseases in the country you are visiting.	
Typhoid	You can get typhoid through contaminated food or water in South Africa. CDC recommends this vaccine for most travelers, especially if you are staying with friends or relatives, visiting smaller cities or rural areas, or if you are an adventurous eater.
Malaria	When traveling in South Africa, you should avoid mosquito bites to prevent malaria. You may need to take prescription medicine before, during, and after your trip to prevent malaria, depending on your travel plans, such as where you are going, when you are traveling, and if you are spending a lot of time outdoors or sleeping outside. Talk to your doctor about how you can prevent malaria while traveling. For more information on malaria in South Africa, see malaria in South Africa .
SOME TRAVELERS	
Ask your doctor what vaccines and medicines you need based on where you are going, how long you are staying, what you will be doing, and if you are traveling from a country other than the US.	
Rabies	Rabies can be found in dogs, bats, and other mammals in South Africa, so CDC recommends this vaccine for the following groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travelers involved in outdoor and other activities (such as camping, hiking, biking, adventure travel, and caving) that put them at risk for animal bites.• People who will be working with or around animals (such as veterinarians, wildlife professionals, and researchers).• People who are taking long trips or moving to South Africa• Children, because they tend to play with animals, might not report bites, and are more likely to have animal bites on their head and neck.
Yellow Fever	<p>There is no risk of yellow fever in South Africa. The government of South Africa <i>requires</i> proof of yellow fever vaccination only if you are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever. This does not include the US. If you are traveling from a country other than the US, check this list to see if you may be required to get the yellow fever vaccine: Countries with risk of yellow fever virus (YFV) transmission.</p> <p>For more information on recommendations and requirements, see yellow fever recommendations and requirements for South Africa. Your doctor can help you decide if this vaccine is right for you based on your travel plans.</p> <p>Note: Yellow fever vaccine availability in the United States is currently limited. If you need to be vaccinated before your trip, you may need to travel some distance and schedule your appointment well in advance. Find the clinic nearest you.</p>