

## **YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION HESITANCY AMONG PRECAUTIONARY GROUPS IN UK YELLOW FEVER CENTRES**

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### **BACKGROUND**

The National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) conducts an annual survey of Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres (YFVCs) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to understand yellow fever (YF) vaccine use and practice. The 2022 survey incorporated questions on precautionary groups.

### **METHODS**

A questionnaire was distributed to YFVCs in 2022. Data were extracted from SurveyMonkey, processed using Python, Excel and STATA V.16.

### **RESULTS**

Of 1,703 YFVCs surveyed, 395 YFVCs advised travellers with precautions to YF vaccine; 94.2% of these travellers received YF vaccine. 39% of these centres never excluded travellers with precautions, and 54.7% excluded only specific groups.

Among the 156 YFVCs offering YF vaccine to precautionary groups, vaccination was as follows: infants aged 6-9 months, 11%; over 60 years of age, 97%; pregnancy, 6%; breastfeeding, 9%; HIV, 11%, and low-dose immunomodulating drugs, 12%.

For YFVCs limiting vaccines to specific groups, the following were excluded: infants (182); elderly (23); pregnancy (175); breastfeeding (84), HIV (89) and low-dose immunomodulating drug (75). Reasons included: 54.3% risk outweighing benefits; 17.8% centre restrictions; 8.2% advice needed; 6.7% additional risk-benefit assessment; 5.3% considered it contraindicated; and 4.8% preferred referral. In these situations, actions included: referral (67%); seeking further advice (19.7%); and issuing exemption letters (6.7%). This was more common in older travellers. NaTHNaC was the preferred resource for advice (96%).

### **CONCLUSION**

Some YFVCs are reluctant to vaccinate travellers with precautions to YF vaccine due to perceived risks. Referral for specialist advice and provision of an exemption letter was common action, especially among elderly travellers.