

## MESSAGE TO YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION CENTRES

### WHO temporary recommendations to prevent the international spread of wild poliovirus

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the recent spread of poliovirus (polio) a public health emergency of international concern. They issued temporary recommendations under the *International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005)* to prevent further spread of the virus worldwide. The recommendations will be reviewed after three months.

The International Certification of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP) is the official documentation used as proof of vaccination or prophylaxis when a requirement exists under the IHR. As a result, the ICVP should be used to document vaccination against poliovirus.

### Implications for Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres

Currently, the Public Health Agency of Canada provides ICVPs to Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres to document proof of yellow fever vaccination. As the temporary recommendations related to polio also require the use of ICVP, the Agency has developed the following resources to support health care professionals.

#### [Statement on Poliovirus and the International Traveller](#)

The Agency's Committee to Advise on Tropical Medicine and Travel (CATMAT) has developed a statement to review the implications of the new temporary recommendations for Canadian travellers and to provide guidance for health care practitioners for the prevention of poliomyelitis (polio) in travellers from Canada.

### Recommendations for Completing the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis for Poliovirus Vaccination

The Public Health Agency has developed [instructions for completing the ICVP](#) in relation to the temporary polio recommendations. The Agency recommends issuing an ICVP to anyone receiving a vaccine or prophylaxis designated under the IHR, even if it is not administered to meet a country entry requirement. The Agency also recommends that the vaccination against polio be documented in the traveller's personal immunization record.

If a traveller has an existing valid ICVP noting previous yellow fever vaccination, the same ICVP can be used to record additional vaccinations for which the disease is designated under the IHR. There is no requirement for separate ICVPs for yellow fever and other vaccinations or prophylaxis designated under the IHR.

### Next steps

The Public Health Agency will continue to monitor the situation and will advise Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres of any new developments related to the temporary measures to prevent further international spread of poliovirus, or its conclusion.

Should you require further clarification, please contact the Public Health Agency of Canada's Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres program at [yfinfofj@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:yfinfofj@phac-aspc.gc.ca) or 613-957-8739.

**Other resources:**

[Travel health notice – WHO temporary polio vaccine recommendations](#)