

Dated the 25th April, 2024

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

Requirement of polio vaccination for International travellers between India and polio infected countries

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has put in place, the requirement of a dose of oral polio vaccine (OPV) for all travellers travelling to India as well as going to countries which are endemic for poliovirus infection or listed as countries with poliovirus circulation.

2 As per WHO, the latest Poliovirus infected countries* are:

- a) Polio endemic countries: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria.
- b) Countries with poliovirus circulation: Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Congo, DR Congo.

**The list of polio infected countries may be amended from time to time by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, depending on poliovirus detection.*

3 These mandatory requirements will be effective for travel from 1st May 2024 to mitigate the risk of importation of poliovirus in India from these eleven polio infected countries. *OPV vaccination certificate will be issued after this additional dose which shall remain valid for a period of one year.*

A. Vaccination requirements for inbound travellers to India from countries with ongoing poliovirus transmission

4 Resident nationals of these eleven polio infected Countries are required to receive a dose of OPV, regardless of age and vaccination status at least four weeks prior to departure to India. A certificate of vaccination with OPV is required for resident nationals of these countries while applying for entry visa to India (*copy of certificate uploaded*). This includes Indian nationals who have travelled to these countries with or without vaccination and those living as NRIs must have valid OPV on their travel to India.

5 It is not mandatory for foreign nationals residing in the eleven polio infected countries to receive vaccination with OPV before travel to India. However, they are advised to receive a dose of OPV four weeks prior to travel in their own interest.

6. Travellers to India should contact the local health authorities in their respective countries for getting vaccination with OPV and the certificate for the same. The certificate of vaccination should be enclosed along with other documents when applying for visa for India and during the travel.

7. The travellers from these eleven countries, who lacks vaccination certificate, shall be mandatorily be given the OPV vaccination at the arrival Point of Entry (Airport/Port/ Land border), failing which regulatory action shall be taken by Government of India.

B. Vaccination requirement for outbound travellers from India to countries with ongoing poliovirus transmission

8 Indian residents travelling from India to the eleven polio infected countries are required to receive a dose of OPV at least four weeks prior to departure, regardless of age and vaccination status.

9 Each district in India has designated at least one centre where vaccination with OPV will be provided to travellers and OPV vaccination certificate will be issued. The District Immunization Officer (DIO) is the designated official for issuance of OPV vaccination certificate to travellers. All the Dte.GHS, MOHFW, authorised Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres(YFVC) Nodal Officers are also designated officers who can issue the OPV vaccination.

10 It is not mandatory for foreign nationals residing in India to receive vaccination with OPV before travelling to the eleven polio infected countries. However, they are advised to receive a dose of OPV four weeks prior to travel in their own interest.

C. Provision of vaccines/ vaccination at the PoEs

11. Travelers (as per above categories) based on the referral of Immigration Officers, who have not taken OPV vaccination four weeks before arrival and departure from or to these eleven countries respectively, are to be vaccinated at the Point of entry(PoE) by the APHOs/ PHOs/ LPHOs and issued a certificate to proceed on further travel.

12. The Authorised YFVC/POEs (APHOs/PHOs/LPHOs) on request to the State/District Immunisation Officers can collect the OPV Vaccines free of cost through their nearest Health facilities.

13. The OPV vaccination and certification are to be given free of cost to the International Travellers to these eleven Polio endemic countries.

Sample copy of Polio certificate

Certificate of Oral Polio Vaccination for international travelers

(Valid for one year from date of vaccination)

Name: _____ Sex _____
Passport No. _____ Date of Birth/Age _____
Address: _____

Date of vaccination	Name of Manufacturer	Batch number of vaccine	Name, Signature and stamp of designated officer