

डा० शिखा वर्धन
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भारत सरकार
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स्वास्थ्य सेवा महानिदेशालय
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली-110011
Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi - 110011

Nirman Bhawan
Date: 10 June, 2024

OFFICE ORDER

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has put in place the requirement of Polio Vaccination (OPV/IPV) for all travelers 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:
- Polio endemic countries:* Afghanistan, Pakistan.
 - Countries with poliovirus circulation/ or *having circulating VDPVs:* Cameroon, Nigeria, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Congo, DR Congo, Somalia and Syria.

**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 are being effective for travel since 1st May 2024, however, it has been revised in view of non-availability of OPV vaccine in few countries listed above, where IPV is being given.

4 Travellers to obtain OPV/IPV Vaccination Certificate mandatorily from designated Health Officer of their respective countries.

5 The advisory has also been uploaded on MoHFW website (<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/>), DGHS website (<https://ihpoe.mohfw.gov.in/>) and IH-PoE website (https://ihpoe.mohfw.gov.in).

This advisory supersedes the earlier advisory issued No.Z.28015/105/2017-IH(NCDC) Part 2 dated 01.05.2024

This issues with approval of competent authority.

(Dr Shikha Vardhan)
ADG-IH

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To,

APHOs/PHOs/LPHOs/Nodal Officers of YFVC/DIOs of States through
Immunisation Division of MoHFW

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Copy to:

1. PSO to DGHS
2. Snr.PPS to CMO (SAG)-IH
3. PPS to Assistant Commissioner, Immunisation Division.
4. US, IH/IC for information to share to MEA.

Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Revised Advisory for Requirement of Polio Vaccination for International Travellers between India and polio infected countries

Glossary of Terms used in text

DIO	District Immunization Officer
APHO	Airport Health Office
PHO	Port Health Office
LPHO	Land Port Health Office
IPV	Inactivated Polio Vaccine
OPV	Oral Polio Vaccine
VDPV	Vaccine Derived Polio Virus

A) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has outlined the requirement of Oral/Inactivated Polio Vaccine (OPV/IPV) for all inbound travellers travelling to India as well as outbound travellers to countries which are endemic for poliovirus infection or listed as countries with polio virus circulation.

- 1) As per WHO, the latest Poliovirus infected countries* are:
 - a) *Polio endemic countries:* Afghanistan, Pakistan
 - b) *Countries till recently endemic and/ or having circulating VDPVs:* Nigeria, Somalia, Syria, Cameroon, Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Congo and DR Congo

*(*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)*

- 2) Travellers to India should possess *Vaccination certificate for Polio vaccine*, issued by Authorized Health Officers of their respective countries.
- 3) Vaccination Certificate shall be issued after taking an additional dose of *OPV/IPV at least four weeks prior* to travel to India.
- 4) This vaccination Certificate issued after this additional dose shall be considered **valid for a period of one year.**

B) Vaccination requirements for inbound travellers to India from countries with ongoing poliovirus transmission

- 1) *Resident national/ National:* Anyone who carries the passport of notified 11 countries should be vaccinated with polio vaccine (OPV/IPV) as per the advisory, irrespective of whether he/she, -
 - 1.1) Directly comes from the notified country or;
 - 1.2) Comes via other country or;

1.3) Has history of visits in last 1 year to their native country if residing outside their country.

- 2) Resident nationals/ residents of the above said eleven polio-infected countries must, -
 - 2.1 Receive an Oral /In-activated polio vaccine (OPV/IPV) dose at least four weeks prior to travel to India, regardless of age or vaccination status;
 - 2.2 Present an OPV/IPV vaccination certificate (*copy of certificate uploaded*) when applying for an Indian visa.
- 3) For *Pregnant woman*, OPV is safe. However Pregnant travellers may take polio vaccine in any form i.e. OPV/IPV (As per WHO position paper on polio vaccine).
- 4) *Immunocompromised person travelling to India* should vaccinate with IPV only.
- 5) Travellers to India should contact the local health authorities in their respective countries for getting vaccination with OPV/IPV and the certificate for the same. This requirement also applies to Indian nationals and NRIs from these countries.
- 6) It is not mandatory for **foreign nationals** residing in these eleven polio infected countries, to receive vaccination with OPV/IPV before travel to India. However, they are advised to receive a dose of OPV/IPV four weeks prior to travel in their own interest.
- 7) The travellers from these eleven countries, *who lack vaccination certificate, shall mandatorily receive OPV* at the arrival Point of Entry (Airport/Port/Land border), failing which regulatory action shall be taken by Government of India.
- 8) Diplomatic and official/service passport holders from eleven polio-infected countries, including Indian diplomats, are ***not exempted*** from the requirement of polio vaccination certificate.
- 9) All travellers, regardless of passport type, must comply with the polio vaccination requirements to safeguard public health.

C) Vaccination requirement for outbound travellers from India to countries with ongoing poliovirus transmission

- 1) Indian residents, NRIs travelling from India to these eleven polio infected countries are required to receive a dose of OPV/IPV at least four weeks prior to departure, regardless of age and vaccination status.

- 2) Each district in India has designated at least one centre where vaccination with OPV/IPV will be provided to travellers and OPV/IPV vaccination certificate will be issued. In this regard;
 - 2.1 The District Immunization Officer (DIO) is the designated official for issuance of OPV/IPV vaccination certificate to travellers;
 - 2.2 All Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres (YFVC) authorised under Directorate General of Health Services, MOHFW are also designated centres for OPV/IPV and issue the OPV/IPV vaccination certificate.
- 3) It is not mandatory for **foreign nationals** residing in India to receive vaccination with OPV/IPV before travelling to the eleven polio infected countries. However, they are advised to receive a dose of OPV/IPV four weeks prior to travel in their own interest.

D) Provision of vaccines/ vaccination at the PoEs

- 1) Travellers arriving from or departing to above mentioned eleven countries, who have not received OPV/IPV vaccination four weeks prior to the date of travel, when referred by Immigration Officers, shall be vaccinated at the Point of entry by the Health Officials at APHOs/PHOs/LPHOs and shall be issued a vaccination certificate to proceed on further travel.
- 2) The DIO will supply the OPV/IPV on demand, free of cost to the Point of Entries and Authorised Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres.
- 3) All Authorised Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres (YFVC) are also designated centres for OPV/IPV vaccination to International Travellers to these eleven Polio endemic countries. (www.ihpoe.mohfw.gov.in provides the list of the YFVC in India)
- 4) The OPV/IPV vaccination and certification are given free of cost to International Travellers to these eleven Polio endemic countries.
- 5) OPV/IPV wherever mentioned denotes route of administration of vaccination.

**Certificate of Oral Polio Vaccination/ Inactivated Polio Vaccination for
International Travellers**

(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