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| Yellow fever Vaccination Course |
| Guidance for the retention of yellow fever approval status in Victoria |
| OFFICIAL |

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This fact sheet is to inform yellow fever vaccine prescribers of Australian Government training accreditation requirements as part of the [National Guidelines for Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres and Providers](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/D60F275C45BDEBBACA25833500790582/$File/Guidelines-Yellow-Fever-Vaccination-Centres.pdf) and outline changes to yellow fever vaccine supply in Victoria.

## Why is the accreditation requirement necessary for centres to retain yellow fever approval status?

A new [training requirement](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-bio-yellow-fever-train.htm) for prescribers of the yellow fever vaccine was introduced by the Australian Government on 26 November 2018. The [Yellow Fever Vaccination Course](https://mycollege.acrrm.org.au/search/find-online-learning/details?id=22729) (the course) will bring Australia in line with other countries that have individual training requirements for prescribing yellow fever vaccine.

To maintain status as a yellow fever vaccination centre, an approved medical practice must ensure that all practitioners responsible for provision of the vaccine meet the individual accreditation requirements. Vaccination providers can become accredited by successfully completing the course and providing the certificate of completion to the yellow fever vaccination centre at which they intend to practise.

## When must the yellow fever vaccination course be completed?

Vaccination providers can become accredited by successfully completing the course and providing the certificate of completion to the yellow fever vaccination centre at which they intend to practise.

Practitioners currently providing the vaccine at an approved Victorian yellow fever vaccination centre, are required to complete the course by 26 November 2021 (if they have not done so already). The accreditation will need to be updated by completing the course every three years.

## What happens if the yellow fever vaccination course is not completed?

A review of Department of Health (the department) approved yellow fever vaccination centres will be undertaken to confirm that the responsible applicant has submitted their course certificate. Where the centre has not supplied the responsible applicant’s course certificate by 26 November 2021, the department’s Immunisation Unit will request that Sanofi Australia suspend the supply of yellow fever (Stamaril®) vaccine to the centre.

Once the course certificate has been supplied to the department, the suspension will be lifted. Where the accreditation certificate has not been supplied the responsible applicant will be contacted by the Immunisation Unit.

## What do I do after I successfully complete the yellow fever vaccination course?

Upon successful completion of the course, you are required to print or save a completion certificate and provide it to the approved yellow fever vaccination centre in which you intend to practise. The yellow fever vaccination centre will provide a copy of your course certificate to the Immunisation Unit.

## Who is responsible in the yellow fever vaccination centre for the yellow fever vaccination course certificates?

It is the role of the responsible practitioner in an approved yellow fever vaccination centre to ensure all staff prescribing yellow fever vaccine have completed the course by 26 November 2021 and maintain a current certificate.

Certificates for practitioners should be emailed to [immunisation@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:immunisation@health.vic.gov.au).   
Please include the following information:

* vaccination centre name
* vaccine account number
* yellow fever stamp number

The responsible practitioner is the medical practitioner or nurse practitioner nominated at the time of registration; details of the responsible practitioner are forwarded to Sanofi Australia. If the responsible practitioner has changed, please complete a [yellow fever vaccination centre change of details form](mailto:yellow%20fever%20vaccination%20centre%20change%20of%20details%20form) and email to [immunisation@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:immunisation@health.vic.gov.au).

## Who completes the yellow fever vaccination course?

Medical practitioners and nurse practitioners who prescribe the yellow fever vaccine at yellow fever vaccination centres are required to be accredited by successfully completing the yellow fever vaccination course; an online learning course hosted by the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM). You do not have to be a member of ACRRM to access the course.

Developed by the Australian Government Department of Health, the ACRRM online yellow fever vaccination course is accessible from the [learning portal](https://www.acrrm.org.au/search/find-online-learning/details?id=13307). It is anticipated that individuals with previous experience or qualifications in travel medicine will be able to complete the course quickly.

## What is the rationale for the yellow fever vaccination course?

Unlike other vaccines, the yellow fever vaccine has international certification requirements which must be completed according to the World Health Organization’s International Health Regulations (2005). The course aims to ensure that all prescribers are familiar with international requirements, along with the other unique aspects of the vaccine that are fundamental for safe clinical decision making. While yellow fever is not endemic in Australia, many Australians are vaccinated each year before travelling to yellow fever risk countries.

## What is the role of the Australian Government, Department of Health?

Under the Biosecurity Act 2015, the Australian Government, Department of Health (Health) has statutory responsibility for the control of [Listed Human Diseases](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-biosec-list-diseases.htm), including yellow fever.

Health is responsible for:

* Liaison with WHO on yellow fever issues.
* National Guidelines that comply with WHO requirements.
* The online Yellow Fever Vaccination Course.
* The National log of individual practitioners who have completed the course. This will not be publicly available but will be used to identify accredited practitioners if they move across jurisdictions or to another yellow fever vaccination centre.

Under funding agreements with the states and territories, the relevant state or territory health authority is responsible for the approval of yellow fever vaccination centres within its jurisdiction.

## What is the role of the Victorian Department of Health?

* Approve yellow fever vaccination centres. Approval is at the discretion of the department.
* Confirm that individual practitioners have provided a copy of relevant accreditation requirements.
* Advise Sanofi Australia Pty Ltd of yellow fever vaccination centres authorised, or no longer authorised, to purchase yellow fever vaccine in Victoria.
* Maintain a publicly available list of approved yellow fever vaccination centres within the state.

## Further Information

* [New Individual Training Requirement for Yellow Fever Vaccination Providers](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-bio-yellow-fever-train.htm)
* [National Guidelines for Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres and Providers](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-bio-yellow-fever.htm)

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