

### Travel and vaccinations for solid organ transplant recipients

Travelling after your transplant can be a rewarding experience. For your safety, ensure that you discuss your travel plans with your transplant team when you start planning your holiday. It is advisable for you to consult a travel medicine specialist who understands about people having a suppressed immune system and your medications.

You must receive the vaccinations for travel several months before your trip and if possible, your transplant doctor may need time to review and reduce the amount of immunosuppression. This is in addition to the routine vaccination (non-travel related) schedule recommended for transplant recipients. The vaccinations you receive for travel safety depend on your travel destination and the time lapsed after your transplantation.

If you are travelling with a child that has been transplanted, ensure that all vaccination schedules/routine immunisations are up to date.

See below recommendations for **travel related vaccines**.

Vaccine	Recommended before transplant	Recommended after transplant	Comments
Salmonella typhi (intra muscular)	Yes	Yes	This is an inactivated vaccine. You must maintain food and water hygiene during your travels despite receiving this vaccine First dose recommended in children over 6 years of age
Salmonella typhi (Vivotif®, oral)	Yes	No	This is a <b>live vaccine</b> and must not be taken after your transplant.
Yellow fever vaccine	Yes	No	This is a <b>live vaccine</b> and you must not receive it after your transplant. If you do not receive this vaccination, you are advised to carry a vaccine waiver letter. A yellow fever vaccine waiver letter stating the contraindication to the vaccine is acceptable to most governments. The letter must bear the stamp of an official, approved yellow fever immunisation centre.
Rabies	See comments	See comments	Recommended before travelling only if you have a very high risk of exposure and are far away from medical facilities. If there is a potential risk of rabies exposure, you should seek treatment immediately

			<p>after exposure. You must receive multiple doses of the intramuscular vaccine along with the rabies immunoglobulin.</p> <p>Children can receive it at any age.</p>
Japanese encephalitis	Yes	Yes	<p>Please be aware that some Japanese encephalitis vaccines in Asia contain <b>live virus</b>. You must not receive this after your transplant.</p> <p>Some vaccines are not approved for paediatric use. Check with your transplant unit for the appropriate vaccine for your transplanted child</p>
Cholera vaccine	Yes	Yes	<p>Adults and children aged &gt;6 years Two doses are required, given a minimum of 1 week and up to 6 weeks apart. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose is not administered within 6 weeks, re-start the vaccination course.</p> <p>For children between 2-6 years Three doses are required, given a minimum of 1 week and up to 6 weeks apart. If an interval of more than 6 weeks occurs between any of the doses, re-start the vaccination course<sup>5</sup></p>

Information in this table has been adapted from the Australian Immunisation Handbook 10th edition and the 2013 American Journal of Transplantation. For a full list of references visit [transplant.org.au](http://transplant.org.au).