

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Religious Affairs
& Interfaith Harmony

No.1(6)/2014-HP

Islamabad, the 18th July, 2014

The Director (Hajj),
Directorate(s) of Hajj,
Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore,
Peshawar, Quetta & Multan

Subject: **HEALTH REGULATIONS FOR TRAVELLERS TO SAUDI ARABIA FOR UMRAH AND PILGRIMAGE(HAJJ)-1435(2014)**

I am directed to enclose herewith a health regulations to be followed by the intending pilgrims during the Hajj season 1435-H(2014). You are required to place it on the notice board of the Haji camp and inform the intending Hujjaj during the training sessions held under the control of your Haji Camp.


(Nasir Aziz Khan)
Section Officer (HP)

Copy to:

- i. AD (IT) to upload above regulations on Ministry's web-site.
- ii. Chairman, Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan, Islamabad.



No. 210-6-4-1-1444

Date: 7th July, 2014

Encl. (circular).

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Islamabad presents its compliments to the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and has the honor to forward to the esteemed Ministry copy of Health Regulations for travelers to Saudi Arabia for Umra and Pilgrimage (for the Hajj Year 1435-2014).

This Embassy will highly appreciate if the esteemed Ministry could kindly deliver it to His Excellency Minister of Religious Affairs, Government of Pakistan.

The Royal Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the esteemed Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan the assurance of its highest consideration.

Ministry of Religious Affairs
Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Islamabad

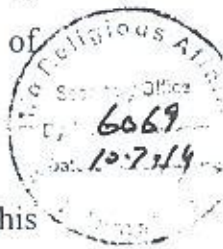
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Health Regulations for travellers to Saudi Arabia for Umrah and Pilgrimage (Hajj)-1435 (2014)

First: Regulations must be met by visitors to obtain an Entry Visa for Hajj and Umrah:

1- Yellow Fever

a) In accordance with the International Health Regulations 2005, all travellers arriving from countries or areas at risk of yellow fever (listed below) must present a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate showing that the person was vaccinated at least 10 days before arrival at the border.

The following countries/areas are at risk of yellow fever transmission:

In Africa: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, South Sudan, Togo, Uganda

In South and Central America: Argentina, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Bolivia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

b) In accordance with the International Health Regulations 2005, aircrafts, ships and other means of transportation coming from countries affected by yellow fever are requested to submit a certificate indicating that it applied disinsection according to the methods recommended by WHO.

2-Meningococcal Meningitis

a) Visitors from all countries:

Visitors arriving for the purpose of Umrah or Hajj or for seasonal work are required to submit a certificate of vaccination with the quadrivalent (ACYW135) vaccine against meningitis issued not more than 3 years previously and not less than 10 days before arrival in Saudi Arabia. The responsible authorities in the visitor's country of origin should ensure that visitors are given 1 dose of the quadrivalent polysaccharide (ACYW135) vaccine.

b) Visitors from African Countries:

For visitors arriving from countries in the African meningitis belt, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Sudan and Sudan, in addition to the above stated requirements, chemoprophylaxis will be administered at port of entry to lower the rate of carriers among them.

3-Poliomyelitis:

All visitors travelling to Saudi Arabia from the below mentioned countries should provide a proof of polio vaccination at least 6 weeks prior departure and travellers will also receive 1 dose of OPV at borders points on arrival in Saudi Arabia regardless of age and vaccination status. These countries include Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Chad, Ethiopia, Syria, Somalia, Kenya, Yemen, Palestine (Gaza sector, west bank and Arab 48), Guinea and Iraq.

(A)

4- Seasonal Influenza:

The Saudi Ministry of Health recommends that international pilgrims be vaccinated against seasonal influenza before arrival in Saudi Arabia, particularly those at increased risk of severe influenza diseases, including individuals with underlying health conditions (e.g. heart disease, kidney disease, respiratory disease, neurological diseases, diabetes), immune deficiency (congenital and acquired), metabolic disorders, and severe obesity; pregnant women; and children under 5 years.

Second: Health Education

Health authorities in countries of origin are required to provide information to pilgrims on infectious diseases symptoms, methods of transmission, complications, and means of prevention.

Third: Food Material

Hajj and Umrah performers are not allowed to bring fresh food in Saudi Arabia. Only properly canned or sealed food or food stored in containers with easy access for inspection is allowed in small quantities, sufficient for one person for the duration of his or her trip.

Fourth: Precautions to MERS-CoV

The Saudi Ministry of Health recommends that elderly; those with chronic diseases (e.g. heart disease, kidney disease, respiratory disease, diabetes), immune deficiency (congenital and acquired), malignancy and terminal illnesses; pregnant women; and children coming for Hajj and Umrah this year, to postpone the performance of the Hajj and Umrah for their own safety.

The Saudi Ministry of Health also advises all pilgrims to comply with common public health recommendations to prevent the spread of MERS-CoV and other respiratory infectious disease, which can be summarized as follows:

- a) Wash hands with soap and water or disinfectant, especially after coughing and sneezing.
- b) Use disposable tissues when coughing or sneezing and dispose it in the waste basket.
- c) Try as much as possible to avoid hand contact with the eyes, nose and mouth.
- d) Avoid direct contact with the infected persons (people with symptoms such as cough, sneeze, expectoration, vomiting, and diarrhea) and do not share their personal belongings.
- e) Wearing masks, especially when in crowded places.
- f) - Maintain good personal hygiene.

Fifth: International Outbreaks Responses:

In the event of a public health emergency of international health concern, or in the case of any disease outbreak subject to notification under the International Health Regulations 2005, the health authorities in Saudi Arabia will undertake additional preventive precautions (not included in the measures mentioned above) following consultation with WHO and necessary to avoid the spread of infection during the Hajj or on return to their country of origin.

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