

Date: February 16, 2018

TO: North Zone Physicians, PCNs, Pharmacies, Travel Clinics
RE: Yellow Fever Vaccine shortage

Context:

- Due to a worldwide shortage of yellow fever vaccine, starting February 16, Albertans booking appointments for yellow fever vaccine with AHS will be offered a partial dose of the vaccine at their appointment.
- Albertans can be assured that the partial dose of yellow fever vaccine is safe and effective for 12 months after it is administered.
- Travelers will still be provided with documentation of their partial immunization against yellow fever.
- This approach is supported by the World Health Organization, and is necessary to help us preserve vaccine for Albertans, while still ensuring that Albertans are protected while travelling.
- Yellow Fever vaccine is available in Grande Prairie and Fort McMurray, as well as in Edmonton.
- We understand that travelers may have questions about this approach, and they are encouraged to call their local AHS Travel Health clinic (link below), or Health Link.

Your Role:

- Encourage your patients/clients who are planning to travel to ensure that they have all recommended/required vaccines prior to departing. The vaccines needed - and when they are needed - will change, depending on travel destination and departure dates.
- We strongly recommend that Albertans call AHS to book travel health/immunization appointments as soon as they know their travel dates, ideally at least six weeks in advance of departure dates, so that they can receive all recommended vaccines in time for their trip.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have further questions please contact your local AHS Travel Health clinic, or Health Link. A list of AHS travel clinics is available here: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/services/page13244.aspx>

This letter will be posted on the AHS-MOH webpage www.albertahealthservices.ca/7082.asp