



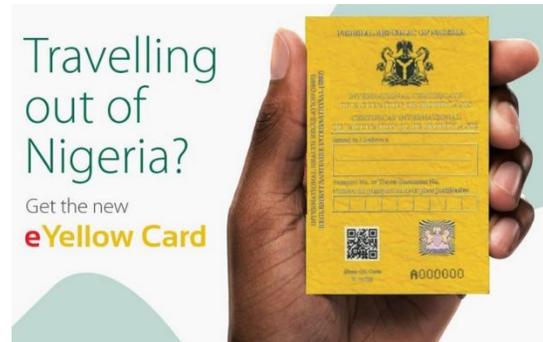
Nigeria's eYellow Card Rollout



July 11, 2019

Overview

On [July 1](#), the Nigerian Government rolled out its new “eYellow Card” initiative, as part of a drive to combat fraud and the spread of disease. This card is a physical card that looks similar to existing yellow cards issued by the Nigerian government, except it will have new security features, including a scannable QR code and serial number. The Nigerian Government has reportedly adopted this measure to combat Yellow Card fraud; this is the second widespread rollout of new Yellow Cards with improved security features in Nigeria since 2013. Reports indicate [Yellow Card fraud is a concern](#) in Nigeria, making it difficult to tell whether Yellow Card holders actually possess the vaccinations they claim. Fraudulent cards may be entirely forged, or may be legitimate yellow cards from the Nigerian government but signed falsely -- often upon payment of a bribe.



Obtaining an eYellow Card

Some U.S. private sector organizations operating in Nigeria have already had relevant staff complete the process outlined below, which is fairly simple. The new eYellow Cards also contain three main security features.

Get the new **eYellow Card** in 5 simple steps

- 1 Visit www.yellowcardnigeria.com
- 2 Click on “Register”.
- 3 Fill in your personal information.
- 4 Click on “Pay Now” button, generate your Remita Retrieval Receipt (RRR) code and pay the sum of N2,000 online (or go to the bank).
- 5 Take the payment receipt along with your International Passport to any Port Health Services Office to get vaccinated and obtain the new eYellow Card.



globally accepted high secure




www.yellowcardnigeria.com

Security Features

 **Harder to forge** – new measures can make fakes easier to spot.

 The **QR Code** (on the bottom left) -- will reportedly be scannable not only by Nigerian government border control officers and but also their counterparts in other African countries.

 **Fraud check** – In theory, anyone can enter the serial number into the www.yellowcardnigeria.com website and obtain proof that the card was issued appropriately.

OSAC Notes
 N2000 is approximate 5.50 USD. Port health offices are located at airports, border control points, and the Ministry of Health. For more information, go to www.yellowcardnigeria.com.

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Who Will These Changes Affect?

Not all travelers must obtain an eYellow Card.

Type of Traveler	eYellow Card Required?
<p>Anyone who arrives without proof of vaccination</p> 	<p>Yes</p> <p>This is not new; these travelers will receive vaccinations at the port health office at point of entry.</p>
<p>Anyone who received a Yellow Card from the Nigerian Government previously</p> 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Includes all expatriates, dual-nationals, and local personnel who received their Yellow Fever vaccine in Nigeria, as they most likely would have received a Nigerian Yellow Card at this time</p>
<p>Anyone who received a fraudulent or falsified Yellow Card, but did not have a vaccination</p> 	<p>Yes</p> <p>These individuals will receive vaccinations at the port health office when they retrieve their eYellow Card.</p>
<p>Travelers who have a valid WHO-approved Yellow Fever card from home</p> 	<p>No -- though it appears that the Nigerian government has only conveyed this exemption verbally so far.</p> <p>This includes Yellow Fever cards obtained in the United States with the CDC logo, which say "WHO-approved" at the header.</p>

What to Expect at Points of Entry

Travelers should expect long lines and delays at points of entry, as officials may subject travel documents to increased scrutiny. The lines and delays may be most severe at Nigeria's more heavily trafficked entry points – especially its busier international airports like Abuja, Lagos, Port Harcourt, and Kano. Due to the number of travelers that may need to replace their

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documentation and/or receive vaccinations, there may also be long lines and delays at port health offices and at other health providers in Nigeria.

Expect potential confusion among travelers and law enforcement officials alike. There may be uneven enforcement of eYellow Card implementation, particularly during the initial phases of the rollout. Travelers not required at this time to obtain an eYellow Card should take into account that officials may be misinformed or misunderstand who is required to acquire a new eYellow Card. In addition, opportunistic actors may take advantage of confusion and uneven enforcement to seek bribes or commit fraud. Nigerian administrative and law enforcement officials have a reputation for engaging in bribery. Travelers (particularly expatriates) should be leery of potential scams offering to facilitate eYellow Card acquisition for travelers. Private-sector travelers that encounter incidents at points of entry -- particularly uneven enforcement, requests for bribes, and eYellow Card scams targeting travelers -- should report such incidents to OSAC, RSO, and/or the broader U.S. private sector via Country Council and Africa Regional Council communications platforms. When interacting with Nigerian law enforcement, including during potential encounters with corruption, remain composed, polite, and courteous.

Those who must obtain a new eYellow Card should make copies of the old one, especially if it contains information on other types of vaccinations, in case these are not transcribed over to the eYellow Card. Note that as of 2016, [amended WHO regulations](#) verify certificate of vaccination against yellow fever for life, following a post-vaccination period of 10 days to ensure inoculation; previous validity was only 10 years. While the Nigerian government recognizes the lifetime validity of yellow fever vaccinations, enforcement officials may be unaware of changes in WHO guidance.

Travelers with the new eYellow Cards may encounter border control officers in other African countries who are unaware of Nigeria's new rollout. When the Nigerian government implemented a similar new Yellow Card rollout in 2013, some regional authorities seized some travelers' new cards at their points of entry. It remains unclear to what extent Nigeria has publicized its rollout to its neighbors and other countries.

[Background on Yellow Fever](#)

Yellow Fever is an acute viral hemorrhagic disease transmitted by infected mosquitos. It is endemic in Nigeria and many sub-Saharan African countries, as well as parts of Latin America. A small percentage of those that contract the disease develop severe symptoms; approximately half of this population segment will die within 7-10 days. Vaccination is the best course of action to protect against yellow fever, as there is currently no specific anti-viral drug for the disease. Response focuses on symptom relief including rest, fluids, and the use of fever and pain reducing medication. Wearing long sleeves and pants, using repellents, using screens on windows, sleeping under mosquito netting, and staying in air conditioned or climate controlled buildings can decrease the likelihood of mosquito bites and protect against infection. Infected people should be protected from further mosquito exposure (staying indoors or under a mosquito net) during the first few days of illness, so they do not contribute to the transmission cycle. For more information, see the [WHO's factsheet on Yellow Fever](#) and the [CDC's Yellow Fever webpage](#).

Nigeria has been grappling with a large and [ongoing outbreak of Yellow Fever](#) since late 2017, though cases have [plateaued since April 2019](#). Outbreaks tend to intensify at the end of the

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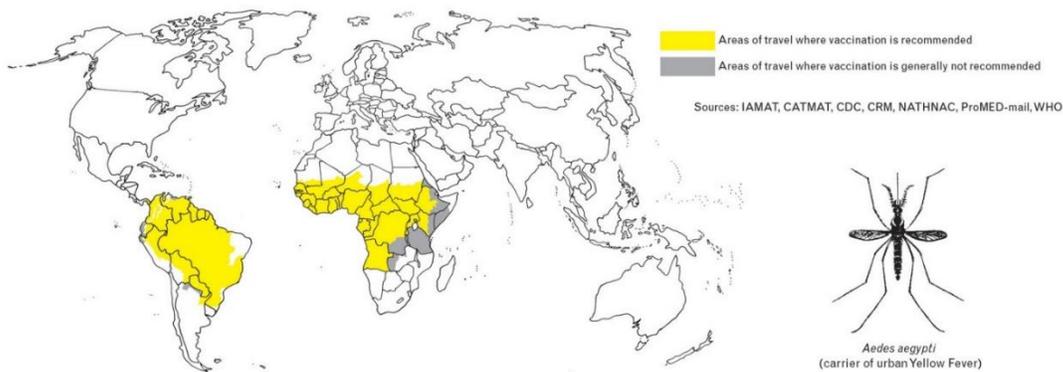
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rainy season and beginning of the dry season (September – January) due to vector lifecycle patterns, as the mosquito population multiplies during wetter months. The 2017 outbreak kicked off the largest [yellow fever vaccination drive](#) in Nigeria's history, resulting in 25 million people being inoculated.

OSAC notes that CDC *recommendations* for a vaccine are different from national *requirements*. A vaccine recommendation is designed to keep you from getting yellow fever; a vaccine requirement is the country's attempt to keep travelers from bringing the yellow fever virus into the country. International Health Regulations allow countries to require proof of yellow fever vaccination from travelers entering their country. Any country can refuse entry to travelers failing to demonstrate proof of vaccination, or possibly detain them to ensure they are free from infection. Proof of yellow fever vaccination has technically been mandatory for entry into Nigeria for years, along with the requirement that those without appropriate documentation receive a vaccination at the health office of traveler's point of entry, so this requirement is not new. [Additional measures](#) were reportedly been adopted at points of entry for the prevention and control of Yellow Fever over the last year to improve enforcement of proof of vaccination documents on arrival. Country-specific yellow fever risk information, along with vaccine recommendations, is available from [CDC](#).

Worldwide Yellow Fever Areas



Early symptoms of yellow fever include



Sources: Map from [iamat.org](#); symptoms chart from [ems-solutionsinc.com](#)

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Additional Information

For more information on security concerns in Nigeria and across the region, contact OSAC's [Africa Team](#).

Other Resources

- OSAC [Nigeria Country Page](#)
- OSAC Reporting:
 - [What's Bugging Your Staff: Mosquito-borne diseases](#)
 - [What's Bugging Your Staff: Mosquito-borne diseases – Mitigation Tactics](#)
- [CDC Nigeria Page](#)
- [CDC Yellow Fever Page](#)
- [WHO Yellow Fever Page](#)
- [Consular Affairs' Nigeria Country Information Page](#)

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