



مجلس الصحة  
لدول مجلس التعاون  
Gulf Health Council

# Vaccination for Expatriates Coming to GCC States for Residence

Technical Instructions for the Accredited Medical Centers



## 1. Overview of Vaccination Technical Instructions

The Gulf Health Council (GHC) has specific criteria to determine which vaccines applicants for GCC residency Visa are required to show proof of having received.

The criteria are as follows:

- The vaccine must protect against a disease that has the potential to cause an outbreak.
- The vaccine must protect against a disease that has been eliminated in the GCC States or is in the process of being eliminated in the GCC States.
- The vaccine must be an age-appropriate vaccine.

## 2. Procedures for the Vaccination Portion of the Medical Exam

The following instructions describe the procedures that should be followed by the accredited medical center performing the vaccination portion of the medical examination for any person who seeks a GCC residency visa.

- Review the applicant's medical history and vaccination records.
- Assess the applicant's needs, if any, for laboratory confirmation of immunity.
- Determine the vaccines the applicant needs based on his or her age, records, documented immunity.
- Assess for contraindications and precautions that might apply to the applicant.
- Administer vaccines, if indicated.

## 3. Review of Vaccination Records

- The accredited medical center should instruct the applicant to submit all available written records of vaccination history for review.
- Acceptable vaccination documentation must come from a vaccination record, either a personal vaccination record or a copy of a medical chart with entries made by a physician or other appropriate medical personnel.
- Only those records of vaccine doses that include the dates of receipt (month, day, and year) are acceptable.
- The document must not appear to have been altered, and dates of vaccinations should seem reasonable.
- Self-reported vaccine doses without written documentation are not acceptable.
- Valid vaccination records presented by the applicant, must be recorded during the medical exam on the candidate report form.

## 4. Laboratory Confirmation of Immunity

Laboratory evidence of immunity is acceptable for measles, mumps, rubella and polio if the applicant lacks acceptable documented history of vaccination for these diseases.



## 5. Determining the Vaccines that Applicant Needs

The following is a list of diseases for which applicants must show proof of having vaccinations or immunity in order to reside in the GCC States:

- Polio
  - Meningococcal disease
  - Measles, Mumps Rubella (MMR)
- a. MMR vaccine series typically require one month to complete. Therefore, it is usually not possible for applicants to receive both doses prior to departure, and they are instead required to receive from the GHC accredited medical center at least one dose.
  - b. If the applicant is up to date on the required vaccines, no additional vaccines are required to be given at the time of the medical exam.
  - c. If the applicant had previously received a dose, or doses, of a required vaccine and is due for the next dose in the series, then the next required dose should be administered at the medical examination visit. If the applicant has not received any of the doses of a vaccine required for his or her age, the first dose in the series should be given at the visit.

## 6. Identifying Potential Contraindications and Precautions to Vaccination

- a. The accredited medical center should identify any past or present conditions that might be a contraindication to, or precaution for, the administration of a vaccine.
- b. In general, accredited medical center should defer vaccines when a precaution or contraindication is present. If the decision is made to defer a vaccine, the "contraindication" reason should be documented on the report for the vaccine dose not given.

## 7. Counseling and Resources

The accredited medical center should counsel the applicant about the importance of completing the series of vaccines after arrival in the GCC States.

## 8. Handling, Storage, and Administration

Proper handling and storage of vaccines are important to ensure their efficacy. If vaccines are not properly handled or stored, their potency is reduced and they may not produce immunity. The following is the guidance on the storage and handling of vaccines.



## Guidance for Safe Vaccine Storage and Handling

### Vaccine Storage Unit

- Use of specifically designed Refrigerator and freezer units for storing biologics, including vaccines; or Household-style unit with a separate exterior door for the freezer and separate thermostats for the freezer and refrigerator. (a small combination freezer-refrigerator unit with a freezer compartment inside the refrigerator should not be used).
- Storage unit door should be sealed properly and does not exposes vaccines to light.
- The unit must have a Temperature monitoring devices (TMD).
- The unit should be with enough space to accommodate vaccines without crowding.

### Organizing and Storing Vaccine

- Vaccines should be stored in their original packaging with the lids closed in clearly labeled containers.
- Avoid loading of vaccines storage units (crowded).
- Vaccines should be stored in the middle of the refrigerator or freezer (away from walls and vents).
- Vaccines should not be stored:
  - a. On the top shelf of the refrigerator, if a combination refrigerator-freezer unit is used.
  - b. In the doors.
  - c. In vegetable and deli bins.
  - d. No food or drink stored in the vaccine storage unit.

### Temperature Logs

- Maintain daily temperature log.
- Temperatures should be checked and recorded
- Check and record vaccine temperatures twice daily. Typically, in the morning and at the end of each shift.
- The temperature logs are kept for at least 1 years.

## 9. Preparing Vaccine for Administration

Vaccine preparation is the final step in the cold chain before administration.

- a. Prepare vaccines in a designated area away from any space where potentially contaminated items are placed.
- b. Only prepare vaccines when you are ready to administer them.
- c. Always check expiration dates and confirm that you have selected the correct vaccine.



## Vaccination Record

Sr. No.	Passport No.	Name	Gender	Age	Travelling To	VACCINES							
						POLIO		MENG		MMR 1		MMR 2	
						Status	Date	Status	Date	Status	Date	Status	Date
1.													
2.													
3.													
4.													
5.													
6.													
7.													
8.													
9.													
10.													

