**Inoculations and Malaria Prevention**

1. Completing an immunization schedule before departure is the first and most important step staff can take to prevent travel-related disease. The protective effects of vaccination take some time to develop and for this reason travellers are advised to allow four (4) to six (6) weeks before departure to start receiving vaccination shots, particularly if the travel destination is one where exposure to vaccine-preventable diseases may occur and one or more doses are necessary. Failure to allow sufficient time for immunizations may delay a traveller’s departure, or result in causing discomfort from multiple vaccines given simultaneously.

1. Malaria is a common and serious disease in many tropical and subtropical areas. Medications called anti-malarial are used both to prevent and treat malaria. Staff travelling to an area where malaria is present, are required to take preventive drug therapy and to follow the correct schedule for taking them in order to reduce the risk of developing malaria.

1. Any staff member traveling to regions with malaria, such as central America, central and SouthEast Asia and sub Saharan Africa should undertake a travel risk assessment to determine whether malaria is a risk, and what specific preparations they require.

1. Once medically cleared for travel, and depending on the country(ies) of destination, the traveller’s vaccination record will be reviewed and updated as necessary. The traveller should present any records of prior documented vaccinations, or a vaccination "yellow book" during the medical clearance process. Refer to guidelines on medical clearance for more information.

1. The traveller will also be given malaria prophylaxis when applicable, and be briefed about health risks and how to minimize them in the country(ies) of destination.

1. For more information, please refer to the websites referenced below:

 [WHO International Travel and Health](http://www.who.int/ith/en)

[CDC Traveler’s Health](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx)