| | Classification criteria | Risk for infection | Vaccination |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| Endemic | Areas with persistence of enzootic yellow fever virus transmission for long periods of time, where yellow fever vectors and non-human primate hosts are present, and where yellow fever infections are repeatedly reported in human beings, non-human primates, or both, where yellow fever cases in human beings were reported regularly before high yellow fever immunisation coverage was achieved, or where serosurveys (prevaccination era) show evidence of high levels of yellow fever virus infection | High | Vaccination recommended for all travellers aged 9 months or older |
| Transitional | Areas bordering zones that are endemic for yellow fever with periodic evidence of virus transmission during epizootic or epidemic expansions, where yellow fever vectors and non-human primate hosts are present, and where yellow fever infections are reported in human beings, non-human primate hosts, or both (sporadic or epidemic) at long intervals and during yellow fever epizootic cases or epidemic expansions from bordering endemic areas, or where serosurveys (pre-vaccination era) show evidence of yellow fever virus infection in individuals born before the previous yellow fever virus expansion | Moderate to high | Vaccination recommended for all travellers aged 9 months or older |
| Low potential for exposure | Areas bordering zones where yellow fever is endemic or transitional, where yellow fever vectors and non-human primate hosts are present, where no yellow fever infections have been reported in either human beings or non-human primates, and where serological or other evidence of low levels of yellow fever viral transmission in the past might exist | Low | Vaccination generally not recommended for travellers to areas with low potential for exposure; however, vaccination might be considered for a small subset of travellers whose itineraries would place them at an increased risk for exposure to yellow fever virus (eg, prolonged travel, heavy exposure to mosquitoes, inability to avoid mosquito bites) |
| No risk | Areas where no past or present evidence of virus circulation exists or environmental conditions are not conducive to yellow fever virus transmission | None | Vaccination not recommended |

Criteria were defined at the 2008 and 2010 WHO consultations on yellow fever—some criteria include elements for which there is no scientific basis for definition (eg. high levels, long intervals) and which will need interpretation by experts with experience in this disease area. Decisions regarding the use of yellow fever vaccine for travellers must consider several factors, such as a patient's risk of infection, country entry requirements, and the potential for serious adverse events after vaccination—in the absence of such information, a conservative approach to vaccination is justified.

Table 1: Classifications of geographical areas, according to risk of transmission of yellow fever virus