Health Regulations for Travelers to Saudi Arabia for Umrah & Pilgrimage
(Hajj)-1435 (2014)

First: Regulations must be met by travelers to obtain an “Entry Visa” for Umrah and Hajj:

1. Yellow Fever:
   a) In accordance with the international health regulations, all travelers arriving from countries or areas at risk of yellow fever (listed below) must present a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate showing that the person was vaccinated at least 10 days and not exceeding 10 years before arrival at the Kingdom.

   b) In line with the international health regulations of 2005, aircrafts, ships, and various means of transportation coming from the states afflicted by the yellow fever, are required to submit a valid certificate showing that all the insects (mosquitoes) on their board were disinfected.

   The yellow fever-affected countries are:
   Angola, Benin, Sudan, South Sudan, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Uganda, Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Togo, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Mali, Mauritania, Rwanda, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guyana, Brazil, Bolivia, Suriname, Peru, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, Paraguay.

2. Meningococcal Meningitis:
   a) Visitors from all countries:
   Pilgrims hailing from all over the world must submit a vaccination certificate showing that they have been vaccinated against meningitis (before arriving in the Kingdom) within at least ten days' period and not exceeding three years. The
responsible authorities in the pilgrim's homeland should ensure that all pilgrims were given 1 dose of the quadrivalent polysaccharide (ACYW135) vaccine.

b) Visitors from African meningitis belt:
For visitors arriving from countries in the African meningitis belt (Sudan, South Sudan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal), the preventive medicine will be administered at ports of entry to lower the rate of carriers.

3. Poliomyelitis:
Pilgrims coming from Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Cameroon, Niger, Chad, Ethiopia, Syria, Somalia, Kenya, Yemen, Guinea, Iraq, and Palestine (Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Arab 48) should submit an oral polio vaccine certificate before their arrival to the Kingdom by six weeks. And they are to be given another dose of the oral polio vaccine when arriving in the Kingdom regardless of their ages.

4. Seasonal Influenza:
The Saudi Ministry of Health (MOH) calls upon pilgrims to be vaccinated with the seasonal influenza vaccine, especially the pregnant women, children (under 5 years), obese people, and those suffering from chronic disorders: heart diseases, kidney diseases, respiratory diseases, nervous system disorders, diabetes, immune deficiency (congenital and acquired), metabolic illnesses.

Second: Health Education:
The health authorities of the states from which the pilgrims hail must raise their nationals' awareness against the infectious diseases and their types, symptoms, transmission ways, complications, and prevention means.

Third: Food Material:
The Saudi Arabia bans the entry of food brought by those coming to the Kingdom, including the pilgrims, among their luggage, unless they are canned and tightly
sealed or in easy-open pots in order to be examined, and with amounts sufficing those who travel by land, only the travelling distance.

Fourth: Special procedures for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).
The Saudi Ministry of Health recommends the elderly people, pregnant women, children, and those with chronic diseases (e.g. heart diseases, kidney diseases, respiratory diseases, nervous system disorders, diabetes, and immune deficiency) to postpone the performance of the Hajj and Umrah rituals of this year for their own safety. The Ministry also advises all pilgrims to comply with common public health guidelines to curb the spread of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and respiratory infectious diseases, which can be summarized as follows:

- Wash hands with soap and water or disinfectants, especially after coughing and sneezing.
- Use disposable tissues when coughing or sneezing and dispose it in the waste basket.
- Try as much as possible to avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with hands.
- Avoid direct contact with the infected persons and do not share their personal gadgets.
- Wear masks, especially when in crowded places.
- Maintain good personal hygiene.

Fifth: Responses to International Outbreaks:
In case there is an emergency case arousing an international alarm or the outbreak of diseases subjected to the international health regulations in any state from which pilgrims come, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's health authorities could take any additional precautionary measures towards those coming from those states, (which have not been mentioned among the above-mentioned conditions), in coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO) at once in order to avoid the infection spread among the pilgrims or its transfer to their countries.