

PILGRIMS WHO TRAVEL TO MECCA THIS FALL WILL GET AN ORAL POLIO VACCINE ON ARRIVAL

Article in New York Times (09/29/09)

Everyone arriving for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in November will be required to take a dose of oral polio vaccine, according to health officials in Saudi Arabia. Until recently, authorities asked for proof of vaccination when pilgrims applied for visas, and only those from countries with endemic polio rates would be required to receive a vaccine. Polio is endemic only in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and India. Saudi Arabia recently donated \$30 million toward global polio eradication.