

Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine Information Sheet

To Vaccinate or Not Vaccinate

Japanese Encephalitis (JE) is a serious mosquito-borne infection that occurs mainly in rural parts of Asia **including the area where your child will be travelling**. Like most health care decisions, one should be well informed when deciding whether or not to receive the Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine. This is a personal decision and should be based on your own personal risk benefit analysis. Although it is impossible to know the chances that any traveler will develop JE on a given trip, the following is from the CDC Yellow Book, a trusted source for information concerning travel related vaccinations

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2016/infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/japanese-encephalitis#3880>

“The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends JE vaccine for travelers who plan to spend ≥1 month in endemic areas during the JE virus transmission season. This includes long-term travelers, recurrent travelers, or expatriates who will be based in urban areas but are likely to visit endemic rural or agricultural areas during a high-risk period of JE virus transmission.” – The CDC Yellow Book 2016

The trip to China will last 28 days, includes areas where Japanese Encephalitis is active and occurs in June which is the beginning of JE season in China. Therefore, per the above CDC recommendation regarding who should receive the vaccine, Deerfield Academy requires that all students who choose to go on this trip be vaccinated for Japanese Encephalitis. After reviewing the information on this sheet, if you choose not to have your child receive the Japanese Encephalitis vaccine you may withdraw your child from the trip and your money will be refunded.

To Vaccinate or Not To Vaccinate:

In making this decision, you should consider the pros and the cons of the vaccine, and, as with any risk benefit analysis, your own tolerance for risk. We have listed some (but not all) of the important pros and cons below to help you in making your decision. **The JE vaccine is a two dose vaccine and the second dose is given 28 days after the first, so we need to start the vaccination process at least 4 weeks before the trip.**

PROS	CONS
Protects against Japanese Encephalitis, a serious mosquito-borne disease present throughout rural Asia.	Cost = approximately \$600 (less if reimbursed by insurance) for the <u>two dose</u> vaccine series.
A vaccine before this trip will protect you on this trip and will reduce the number of shots necessary if protection is needed in the future. Current recommendations are that a booster be administered in one year. There is no data yet concerning the need for subsequent boosters.	There is a low but measurable risk of life-threatening allergic reaction to this vaccine, estimated by the CDC to be less than 1:1,000,000.
Unlike mosquito bite avoidance measures, the vaccine offers protection against JE if mosquito bites do occur due to failure to apply insect repellent, wear appropriate clothing or a failure or absence of anticipated mosquito avoidance measures in the place of lodging	25% of recipients of his vaccine may experience fever and body aches, as well as soreness, redness or swelling where the shot was given that can last up to a week.

In addition to the vaccine, the best method of preventing JE are mosquito bite prevention strategies such as DEET-containing insect repellent, long sleeves and pants and, when available, mosquito nets at night where the risk of mosquito bites is significant.

There is always uncertainty when traveling and you must consider the fact that well made plans and itineraries sometimes change. Also consider that remembering to and being willing to apply insect repellent, wear long sleeves and pants and to carefully enclose the mosquito net at night is not necessarily a character trait of all adolescent travelers.

Please consider the risk that JE poses to you or your child on this trip, read the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) that accompanies this document and consider the pros and cons. Then please CHECK ONE of the statements below, fill in your child's name and sign below. Please call or email if you have any questions.

Please administer to my child, _____, the Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine. I have read the Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine Information Statement and have had an opportunity to ask questions about the risks and benefits of vaccination.

Please DO NOT administer to my child, _____, the Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date: _____