

# Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine

## What You Need to Know

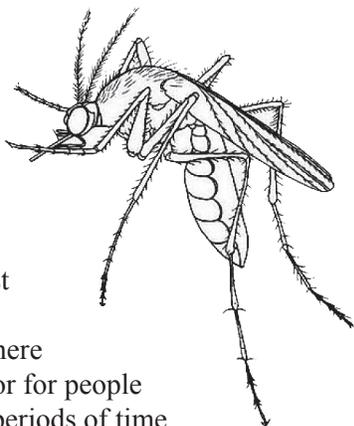
Many Vaccine Information Statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis)

Hojas de información sobre vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis)

### 1 Why get vaccinated?

Japanese encephalitis (JE) is a serious infection caused by the Japanese encephalitis virus.

- It occurs mainly in rural parts of Asia.
- It is spread through the bite of an infected mosquito. It does not spread from person to person.
- Risk is very low for most travelers. It is higher for people living in areas where the disease is common, or for people traveling there for long periods of time.
- Most people infected with JE virus don't have any symptoms. Others might have symptoms as mild as a fever and headache, or as serious as encephalitis (brain infection).
- A person with encephalitis can experience fever, neck stiffness, seizures, and coma. About 1 person in 4 with encephalitis dies. Up to half of those who don't die have permanent disability.
- It is believed that infection in a pregnant woman could harm her unborn baby.



JE vaccine can help protect travelers from JE disease.

### 2 JE vaccine

Japanese encephalitis vaccine is approved for people 2 months of age and older. It is recommended for travelers to Asia who:

- plan to spend at least a month in areas where JE occurs,
- plan to travel for less than a month, but will visit rural areas and spend a lot of time outdoors,
- travel to areas where there is a JE outbreak, or
- are not sure of their travel plans.

Laboratory workers at risk for exposure to JE virus should also be vaccinated.

The vaccine is given as a 2-dose series, with the doses spaced 28 days apart. The second dose should be given at least a week before travel. Children younger than 3 years of age get a smaller dose than patients who are 3 or older.

A booster dose might be recommended for anyone 17 or older who was vaccinated more than a year ago and is still at risk of exposure. There is no information yet on the need for a booster dose for children.

NOTE: *The best way to prevent JE is to avoid mosquito bites. Your doctor can advise you.*

### 3 Some people should not get this vaccine

- Anyone who has had a severe (life-threatening) allergic reaction to a dose of JE vaccine should not get another dose.
- Anyone who has a severe (life threatening) allergy to any component of JE vaccine should not get the vaccine.

*Tell your doctor if you have any severe allergies that you know of.*

- Pregnant women should usually not get JE vaccine. If you are pregnant, check with your doctor.

If you will be traveling for fewer than 30 days, especially if you will be staying in urban areas, tell your doctor. You might not need the vaccine.



## 4 Risks of a vaccine reaction

With a vaccine, like any medicine, there is a chance of side effects. When side effects happen, they are usually mild and go away on their own.

### Mild problems

- Pain, tenderness, redness, or swelling where the shot was given (about 1 person in 4).
- Fever (mainly in children).
- Headache, muscle aches (mainly in adults).

### Moderate or Severe problems

- Studies have shown that severe reactions to JE vaccine are very rare.

### Problems that can happen after any vaccine

- Brief fainting spells can happen after any medical procedure, including vaccination. Sitting or lying down for about 15 minutes can help prevent fainting, and injuries caused by a fall. Tell your doctor if you feel dizzy, or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.
- Lasting shoulder pain and reduced range of motion in the arm where the shot was given can happen, very rarely, after a vaccination.
- Severe allergic reactions from a vaccine are very rare, estimated at less than 1 in a million doses. If one were to occur, it would usually be within a few minutes to a few hours after the vaccination.

The safety of vaccines is always being monitored. For more information, visit: [www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/)

## 5 What if there is a serious reaction?

### What should I look for?

- Look for anything that concerns you, such as signs of a severe allergic reaction, very high fever, or behavior changes. Signs of a severe allergic reaction can include hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, and weakness. These would usually start a few minutes to a few hours after the vaccination.

### What should I do?

- If you think it is a severe allergic reaction or other emergency that can't wait, call 9-1-1 or get the person to the nearest hospital. Otherwise, call your doctor.
- Afterward, the reaction should be reported to the "Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System" (VAERS). Your doctor might file this report, or you can do it yourself through the VAERS web site at [www.vaers.hhs.gov](http://www.vaers.hhs.gov), or by calling **1-800-822-7967**.

*VAERS is only for reporting reactions. They do not give medical advice.*

## 6 How can I learn more?

- Ask your doctor.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
  - Call **1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO)**
  - Visit the CDC's travelers' health website at [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)
  - Visit CDC's JE website at [www.cdc.gov/japaneseencephalitis/](http://www.cdc.gov/japaneseencephalitis/)

Vaccine Information Statement  
Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine

01/24/2014

Office Use Only



# TO VACCINATE OR NOT TO VACCINATE

## The Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine Decision Worksheet

Like most health care decisions, one should be well informed when deciding whether or not to receive or have their child receive the Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine. This decision should be based on your own personal risk benefit analysis.

Japanese Encephalitis (JE) is a serious mosquito-borne infection that occurs mainly in rural parts of Asia including South Korea. The risk is very low for most travelers but higher for people visiting rural areas, for people traveling for long periods of time and during peak season of transmission. Although it is impossible to know the chances that any traveler will develop JE on a given trip, please click [HERE](#) to review information from the CDC Yellow Book, a trusted source for information concerning travel related vaccinations.

The itinerary for South Korea mostly involves the metropolitan cities where the faculty and students will be staying in air-conditioned hotels and the risk of JE transmission is low. However, there will be a 2 day excursion to a rural temple where their accommodations are not air conditioned and mosquito netting will be used at night. There is also a daytrip to the DMZ which is also rural. The CDC considers JE to be “widespread” in South Korea. Peak season of transmission for JE in South Korea is May through October, so the trip will occur during peak season for transmission.

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 mosquito nets at night where the risk of mosquito bites is most 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/or be 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 adolescent travelers.

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. **It is a two dose vaccine and the second does 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.

Directions to complete this Worksheet:

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. If you request JE vaccination, we will administer it in the January or February and will call you to confirm before doing so.

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Please administer to my child, _____, the Japanese Encephalitis Student Name 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.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Please DO NOT administer to my child, _____, the Japanese Student Name Encephalitis Vaccine. I choose to not vaccinate my child against Japanese Encephalitis at this time.
_____
NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN
_____
SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN
_____
DATE