
Japanese Encephalitis Information Sheets

What is Japanese Encephalitis?

Japanese Encephalitis (JE) is a serious disease that is most prevalent throughout Far East and South East Asia. The incidence of Japanese Encephalitis is on the decline due to traveller and local knowledge of mosquito prevention and vaccination.

How do you get Japanese Encephalitis?

Primarily a traveller can get Japanese Encephalitis via the bite of a mosquito that belongs to the genus **Culex**. This particular virus can affect pigs and birds as well as humans. After biting infected pigs and birds, the mosquito then becomes infective. The symptoms of Japanese Encephalitis depend upon the severity of the infection. In mild circumstances the following symptoms may be seen; febrile headaches and meningitis. In more severe cases the following symptoms can be seen; headaches and high fever, severe meningitis symptoms. WHO states that approximately 50% of cases have a fatal outcome.

Can I be vaccinated against Japanese Encephalitis?

Yes. Travellers to endemic areas of Japanese Encephalitis are encouraged to have the course of vaccinations to be immunized against this disease. The course consists of three vaccinations given on day 0, 7 or 14 and 30. (In limited time cases, the rapid dose of 0, 7 and 14 can be given).

How do I avoid mosquitoes in general?

1. The use of an insect repellent containing DEET, such as RID
2. Avoiding the outdoors between dawn and dusk
3. Wearing long, light coloured, loose clothing, as dark colours attract mosquito's
4. Avoid wearing any strong perfume
5. If accommodation consists of backpacker or hostel or tent, the use of a mosquito net impregnated with permethrin.
6. Washing clothes in permethrin solution prior to travel.

How much does the vaccination cost?

Each injection costs \$90.00 (incl GST). Each traveller will need a total of three injections prior to travel.

Who can have the vaccination?

Persons over the age of 1 year can have the vaccinations.