

Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine

Japanese encephalitis is a rare mosquito borne illness. It occurs throughout the eastern and southern parts of Asia and the islands of the southeast Pacific. The illness occurs mostly in rural agricultural areas. Vaccination is recommended for travelers who will spend more than a month in this part of the world, even if they will be in cities most of the time. Vaccination is also recommended for travelers staying less than a month, if they will be spending a substantial amount of time outdoors in rural areas or sleeping in open accommodations. Most travelers staying less than a month and going to usual tourist areas, including expeditions to the jungle to view Angkor Wat, do not need this vaccine. The vaccine is given as two injections separated by 28 days. It is a safe vaccine, but it is expensive. All travelers should use precautions to avoid mosquito bites. It is a good idea to wear pants and long sleeve shirts, and use an insect repellent such as picaridin in a 20% solution.