

VACCINE INFORMATION FACT SHEET

Tick-Borne Encephalitis Vaccine (TICOVAC™): What You Need to Know

1. Why should you get vaccinated?

Tick-Borne Encephalitis Vaccine

(TICOVAC™) can help protect against Tick-Borne Encephalitis (TBE), a life-threatening illness caused by a virus that is spread through the bite of an infected tick. TBE virus can be found in parts of Europe and Asia. TBE virus is not found in the United States.

TBE is a rare disease. People traveling overseas, including Service Members, to areas where the virus is found might be at risk for infection. The ticks that spread the virus are most active in the warmer months of April through November, but transmission can occur year-round. Persons participating in outdoor activities, like hunting, camping, hiking, fishing, or military training, are at the highest risk of exposure to ticks.

Although TBE virus is mostly spread through tick bites, TBE can spread by eating or drinking raw milk or cheese from infected goats, sheep, or cows. Laboratory infections with TBE virus have sometimes occurred.

Many people infected with TBE virus have no symptoms, but some get very sick and can develop an infection of the brain (encephalitis) or lining of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis).

- Symptoms of encephalitis can include drowsiness, confusion, or problems with motor abilities, such as paralysis.
- Symptoms of meningitis can include fever, headache, and a stiff neck.

Some people who recover from TBE have long-term problems, such as difficulties with memory or concentration or more severe problems like paralysis of arms or legs or difficulty speaking. In severe cases, TBE has the potential to cause death.

2. Tick-Borne Encephalitis Vaccine (TICOVAC™):

Tick-Borne encephalitis (TBE) vaccine is recommended for people who are living or traveling overseas to a TBE-endemic area and will have extensive exposure to ticks based on their planned outdoor activities and itinerary. The decision about vaccination should be based on factors like where the person is traveling, their planned activities, any risk factors for more severe disease, and personal perception and tolerance of risk. Your health care provider can give you more information.

TICOVAC™ is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for prevention of tick-borne encephalitis in **children 1 year old and older at risk for TBE, to include laboratory workers who might be exposed to the TBE virus.**

- CDC recommends TICOVAC™ for individuals who spend time outdoors in or near forests within endemic areas, to include military personnel.

Primary Vaccination Schedule		
	1 through 15 years of age (0.25mL dose)	16 years of age and older (0.5mL dose)
First dose	Day 0	Day 0
Second dose	1 to 3 months after the first vaccination	14 days to 3 months after the first vaccination
Third dose	5 to 12 months after the second vaccination	5 to 12 months after the second vaccination

CDC recommends consideration of a fourth (booster) dose administered at least 3 years after completion of the primary immunization series

for ongoing exposure or re-exposure. Your health care provider can give you more information.

3. Talk with your health care provider

TBE vaccine can be given at the same time as other vaccines. Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of TBE vaccine** or has **any life-threatening allergies**.

In some cases, your health provider may decide to postpone TBE vaccination until a future visit. People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting TBE vaccine.

4. Risks of a vaccine reaction

- Local tenderness, local pain, redness, and itching at the injection site are the most common things that happen after vaccination with TICOVAC™.
- Headache, fever, restlessness, fatigue, muscle pain can also sometimes happen after vaccination with TICOVAC™.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe reaction.

5. What if there is a serious problem?

An allergic reaction could occur after the vaccinated person leaves the clinic. If you see signs of a severe allergic reaction (hives, swelling of the face and/or throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or weakness), call **9-1-1** or your local emergency service telephone number, and get the person to

the nearest hospital. For other signs that concern you, call your local health care provider.

Adverse reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your health care provider will usually file this report, or you can do it yourself. Visit the VAERS website at

www.vaers.hhs.gov or call **1-800-822-7967**.

VAERS is only for reporting reactions, and VAERS staff members do not give medical advice.

6. How can I learn more?

- Ask your health care provider.
- Updates from the European CDC (ECDC) on impacted locations at www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/tick-borne-encephalitis.
- Contact Defense Health Agency (DHA) Immunization Healthcare Division 24/7 DoD Support Center **1-877-438-8222 (1-877-GET-VACC)** or visit the website at www.health.mil/vaccines.
- Visit the website of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for vaccine package inserts and additional information at www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines.
- Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/tick-borne-encephalitis/vaccine.