



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

January 11, 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MANPOWER
AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Tick-Borne Encephalitis Vaccination

Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) is a human viral infectious disease which typically involves the central nervous system. The virus is transmitted by the bite of infected ticks (*Ixodes spp.*) which are found in woodland habitats, to include peri-urban areas. The disease is endemic in several central, northern and eastern European countries, with the highest incidence of disease historically found in the Baltic and central European countries. Service members, Department of Defense (DoD) civilian employees, and accompanying family members, who are permanently or temporarily stationed within the U.S. European Command's area of responsibility can be at risk for TBE. Activities which increase the risk of contact with ticks, include field exercises, other outdoor work, and recreational activities.

The Joint Preventive Medicine Policy Group (JPMPG) reviewed recommendations from a multi-Service team of subject matter experts, including the Defense Health Agency Armed Forces Health Surveillance and Immunization Healthcare Divisions. Based on the JPMPG review and recommendations, I direct that: All DoD military medical treatment facilities (MTFs) will make the U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved TBE vaccine available within the MTF for all eligible beneficiaries for whom vaccination is indicated based on official or non-official travel to affected areas and for any DoD civilian employees who are engaging in official travel to such areas, in accordance with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

My point of contact for this memorandum is [REDACTED]

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cc:
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Surgeon General of the Army
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Chief Medical Officer
Commander of the Combatant Commands