

Risk Factors for Japanese Encephalitis Among Travelers

DURATION

- Highest incidence of disease has been reported among longer-term travelers.
- Although no specific duration of travel puts a traveler at risk for JE, longer-term travel increases the likelihood that a traveler might be exposed to an infected mosquito.
- Longer-term travel includes cumulative periods in JE-endemic areas; this includes frequent travelers and persons living in urban areas who are likely to visit higher-risk rural areas.



SEASON

- JE virus transmission occurs seasonally in some areas and year-round in others.
- Information on expected JE virus transmission by country is available on the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/japanese-encephalitis/data-maps/index.html>). These data should be interpreted cautiously because JE virus transmission varies within countries and from year to year.



LOCATION

- The highest risk occurs from mosquito exposure in rural or agricultural areas.
- Mosquitoes that transmit JE virus typically breed in flooded rice fields, marshes, and other stagnant collections of water.
- Some cases have been reported among travelers to coastal areas or resorts located in or adjacent to rural or rice growing areas.
- JE can occur in large, focal outbreaks indicating extensive active JE virus transmission in those areas.



ACTIVITIES

- The mosquitoes that transmit JE virus feed most often in the outdoors, particularly from sunset through sunset to sunrise. Examples of activities that increase risk include the following: Outdoor recreational activities such as camping, hiking, trekking, biking, rafting, fishing, hunting, or farming.
- Spending substantial time outdoors, especially during the evening or night.



ACCOMMODATIONS

- Accommodations without air conditioning, screens, or bed nets increase risk for mosquito exposure.



More information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/rr/rr6802a1.htm>