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Vaccine against Early Summer Meningitis-Encephalitis (FSME) (the “tick shot”)

Why a vaccine?

This illness can be transmitted by ticks found especially in the wooded areas of Austria including the Vienna Woods, the Wachau, Styria, Carinthia and Burgenland. The tick vaccine is available to all AIS students, family members, and faculty members and is strongly recommended. It is given in February and March of each year. Information about registration is published in the news section of the school website and comes out in the weekly **scoops** magazine in January.

General information

The complete vaccination is a series of three intra-muscular injections, preferably given in the cold season (before the tick season), according to the following schedule:

- First and second injection with an interval of 2 weeks to 3 months.
- Third injection after 9 months to 1 year.
- The first booster injection (one single dose) 3 years after the third injection.
- All boosters after the first booster are repeated every 5 years.

PROTECTION STARTS AFTER THE SECOND INJECTION AND IS COMPLETE AFTER THE THIRD INJECTION.

Contraindications

- An allergy to chicken protein (egg whites)
- Acute febrile illness (fever).
- Recent exposure to a viral infection (e.g. chickenpox, measles, mumps, etc.).
- Recent recovery from an illness affecting the central nervous system (e.g. polio, meningitis, etc.).
- Severe neuritis (e.g. sciatica, herpes zoster (shingles) etc.).
- A recent tick bite.

It is recommended to allow an interval of one week before having any other immunizations (e.g. polio, yellow fever, cholera, etc.).