Pfizer Gets Priority Review for Tick-Borne Encephalitis Vaccine

Pfizer has received priority review for their vaccine, TicoVac, which protects against tick-borne encephalitis. This tick-borne virus can cause meningitis and trigger long-term neurological symptoms in humans. If approved, the vaccine would potentially protect travelers and members of the United States military that are deployed to regions where the virus is common, such as Europe and parts of Asia.

TicoVac is an inactivated virus vaccine that has been highly effective at preventing tick-borne encephalitis throughout Europe for four decades. With this FDA fast-pass, it is hoped that a US approval would occur by August and would simplify the process for US military members to get the vaccine.

Pfizer is also developing a vaccine for another tick-borne illness: Lyme disease.

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