

Master project: 30hp

Title: Assessing TBE risk in outdoor occupations



Photo: Anders Lindström.

Background:

Tick-borne encephalitis (TBE) is a significant public health threat in regions with prevalent tick populations. In Europe, the number of TBE cases increased from 2012 to 2020, and there was a spread towards the northwest in continental Europe. TBE is a viral infection transmitted to humans through the bite of infected ticks, primarily in forested areas. Outdoor workers, e.g. forest workers, hunters, berry pickers and farmers, due to their occupation, under high risk of TBE infection. This project aims to synthesize existing research findings and insights related to TBE risks in these specific occupational groups.

Aim and Method:

- Conduct a literature review to identify and analyze studies related to TBE risks in different outdoor occupation groups.
- Identify gaps in the existing literature concerning TBE vaccination rates, factors influencing coverage, and successful intervention strategies among these occupations.
- Perform surveys targeted at specific outdoor occupational groups to assess their coverage of TBE vaccinations and the policies implemented by their employers regarding vaccination

Expected starting time: The work will be carried out at the earliest convenience or during the spring semester 2024 with supervisors from Umeå University and the National Veterinary Institute (SVA) in Uppsala.

Requirements: We are seeking a student in the field of public health, occupational health, or a related medical program who possesses academic interests. The orientation of the work can be partially adapted to your educational background and interests. Literature assessment and data extraction will be included so you should master Excel or a statistical language.

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