The 2001 Serological survey in the Czech Republic – DIPHTHERIA

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SUMMARY

Diphtheria morbidity in the Czech part of former Czechoslovakia showed a continuous downward trend between 1946 and 1974. Afterwards, sporadic cases of diphtheria were reported in some years. Compulsory vaccination against diphtheria was started in 1946 with a monovaccine, later replaced by bivaccine DiTe. Since 1958, newborns have been vaccinated with DiTePe vaccine. As many as 98 % to 100 % of the population of age groups under 50 years likely to have been vaccinated have antibody levels >0.01 IU/ml. About 83 % to 88 % of the older age groups who represent a naturally immunized population have antibodies as well. This immune status excludes the possibility that diphtheria could spread massively if accidentally imported into the Czech Republic.

Key words: diphtheria, serological survey, herd immunity

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