



Copies of any bulletin may be ordered by calling the Section of Epidemiology at (907) 269-8000
or by writing to us at PO Box 240249, Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0249

Bulletin No. 1
January 25, 1974

This is the inaugural issue of the Communicable Disease Bulletin which has replaced the Communicable Disease Report. The Bulletin will be issued twice a month and is designed to provide rapid up-to-date reports of communicable disease problems in the community. When space permits we will provide informative material on various health topics.

Diphtheria Carriers Found in Mt. Edgecumbe

Recently five diphtheria carriers were found at the Indian Health Service High School in Mt. Edgecumbe. The index case occurred on October 11, 1973. The patient received a throat culture because of a sore throat and an alert laboratory technician eventually identified diphtheria. The organism was toxigenic. From January 10 to January 14, four more carriers were found. All five individuals came from villages in the Bethel area. They are close acquaintances at Mt. Edgecumbe and frequently share drinks from soft drink bottles. The five are Freshmen and sleep on the same floor of a dormitory. Seventy other members of this dormitory have been cultured for diphtheria.

Because of the possibility of spread in Mt. Edgecumbe and to Sitka, an immunization campaign is being conducted. On January 23rd, 1100 doses of Diphtheria Tetanus Toxoid were administered and in the week ahead another one to two thousand individuals will be immunized.

(Reported by Robert Carlson, M.D., Sue Carlson, M.D., Lee Schmidt, M.D., Arthur Willman, Nancy Eliason, PHN, and Dean Davidson.)

Hepatitis Epidemic in Barrow Sputters to an End

From May until December, 1973, 128 cases of infectious hepatitis occurred in Barrow, Alaska. Administration of Immune Serum Globulin to household contacts of cases was unsuccessful in halting the epidemic. Only mass administration of Immune Serum Globulin to over 1,000 individuals allowed the epidemic to abate. In the past two weeks there have been no cases of hepatitis and it appears the epidemic has ended.

(Reported by Ose Matsutani, M.D., Quinton Fisher, M.D., Elaine Wallace, PHN.)

Influenza Stays Away.....So Far

To date there have been no confirmed cases of influenza in the State.