



Bulletin No. 5
March 25, 1974
Serologic Test for Syphilis

More Meningococcus in Alaska

Since the previous Communicable Disease Bulletin, 2 additional cases of meningococcal disease have occurred, one case involving a 10 year old boy from Girdwood and the other a young child in Juneau. In the past month four cases of meningococcal disease have occurred in Alaska. There is no apparent connection between these cases. In 1973, a total of 11 cases of meningococcal disease were reported in the State.

Reported by Dale Webb, MD and Kenneth Moss, MD

Viruses

Diagnostic capabilities for viral illnesses are available in the State. Laboratory facilities exist to isolate viruses and serologic tests can be performed. All these services are free of charge.

If you require diagnostic assistance for virus isolation and/or serologies, please contact:

Mickey Eisenberg, MD	338 Denali St, Rm 222, Anchorage	272-7534
David Barrett, MD	225 Eagle St, Anchorage	279-9511
John Burks, MD	225 Eagle St, Anchorage	279-9511

Once specimens are sent to our office in Anchorage, we will arrange for appropriate shipment.

For serologic studies both an acute and convalescent serum are required. Acute serum should be obtained with the onset of the illness and the convalescent serum drawn 2 weeks later. The sera are then run as a paired sample.

Serology Scoreboard

In 1973 follow-up was performed on 192 positive serologic tests for syphilis. As a result 38 individuals received treatment for the disease. It was also determined that 10 additional individuals had previously received inadequate therapy and they were treated again.

Six cases of early infectious syphilis were identified via routine serology. Epidemiologic investigation identified four additional infectious cases resulting in the examination of 22 contacts. Nineteen of these contacts were prophylactically treated.