



Bulletin No. 3
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Influenza, is it here?

In the past week, many reports of a flu-like syndrome have been received from Anchorage, Soldotna and Cordova. The illness has been characterized by sore throat, headache, diarrhea and/or nausea, and prostration. In Soldotna, the high school reported an absentee rate of 30%. Currently, attempts are underway to characterize the as yet unspecified virus causing the illness.

VIRUS WATCH

In the past month, the Department of Health and Social Services, Rabies-Virology Laboratory has isolated the following viruses: Adenovirus Types 1, 2, 5, 10, 17, Echovirus, Types 16, 17, 18, 21, 31. Most isolates have come from the Anchorage area.

CALIFORNIA VIRUS ENCEPHALITIS

California Virus Encephalitis occurred in a four-year-old Anchorage girl. This is the first serologically confirmed human case in Alaska. The encephalitis, associated with California virus, is generally mild and major sequelae are uncommon. Clinically, the illness is indistinguishable from a host of aseptic encephalitides; the diagnosis is most easily made by serologic testing.

HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE?

Reports of a Hand, Foot and Mouth disease-like illness have been received from Mentasta. Hand, Foot and Mouth disease is caused by several Coxsackie, Type A viruses and is characterized by vesicular lesions in the oral cavity and on the extremities.

(Reported by James S. Pinneo, M.D.)

MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS

As part of a nationwide surveillance program, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services would like to conduct an epidemiologic investigation of every case of meningococcal meningitis.

If a case is diagnosed, contact the Medical Epidemiologist, Dr. Mickey Eisenberg, 272-7534 (Anchorage).