



Bulletin No. 19

December 17, 1976

Measles Outbreak Continues in Anchorage —
City Wide School Immunization Program Launched

Cases of measles are still occurring from the outbreak of measles which began on September 20. Seven confirmed cases and two probable cases have been identified. Cases are still occurring. Eighteen children are under investigation for fever and rash illness and serological tests are pending. None of the confirmed or probable cases of measles had been immunized against measles or rubella. All confirmed cases have occurred in three Anchorage schools where immunization record review revealed low levels of immunization. Because of this, school immunization records were reviewed in all Anchorage schools. All children who have not had a measles or rubella shot were identified. Letters have been sent to their parents and immunization clinics are being offered in Anchorage schools on December 13, 14, and 15 to update measles and rubella immunizations. Plans are being developed to update immunization to diphtheria, tetanus and polio early in 1977.

Alaska State Law and Regulations require that children attending school be immunized against communicable diseases, specifically, diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles and rubella. The statute and regulations are quoted below:

A.S. 14.30.125 IMMUNIZATION - If in the judgment of the Commissioner of Health and Social Services, it is necessary for the welfare of the children or the general public in an area, the governing body of the school district shall require the children attending school in that area to be immunized against the diseases the Commissioner of Health and Social Services may specify.

Legal citations: (Sec. 45, Ch. 98, SLA 1966; am Sec. 2, Ch. 131, SLA 1967; am Sec. 6, Ch. 104, SLA 1971)

4 AAC 06.055 IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED.

(a) Prior to the first entry in an Alaska public school district or nonpublic school offering pre-elementary education through the 12th grade, or any combination of these grades, a child shall be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, whooping cough and measles, except that immunization against whooping cough is not required for first entry to school after age six.

(b) This section does not apply if the child: (1) has a valid immunization certificate showing the immunization requirement has been fulfilled; (2) has an affidavit signed by a doctor licensed to practice in Alaska affirming his opinion immunization would be injurious to the health and welfare of the child or members of his family or household; (3) has an affidavit signed by parents or guardian affirming that immunization conflicts with the tenets and practices of the church or religious denomination of which the applicant is a member.

(c) A student may be provisionally admitted to a pre-elementary, elementary or secondary program if he does not have the required immunizations, provided that the required immunizations are obtained within a period of three months after enrollment.

(d) If a parent or guardian is unable to pay the cost of immunization, or immunization is not available in the district or community, immunization shall be provided by state or federal public health services.

(e) Immunizations shall be recorded on each pupil's permanent health form. (Eff. 1/13/73, Reg. 44)

Authority: AS 14.07.020 (7) AS 14.30.125

The Commissioner of Health and Social Services has specified "measles" as being defined so as to include rubeola (hard measles) and rubella (German measles).