



Bulletin No. 1

January 7, 1977

## MEASLES STRIKES AGAIN

In the past three weeks, 22 cases of measles have been diagnosed in the Fairbanks area. None of the children had been immunized and several cases were clustered in two schools. Because of this, immediate immunization against measles was done in cooperation with military physicians at Fort Wainwright and the Fairbanks school district. At the same time intensive efforts are underway to discover cases in other areas of Fairbanks and school nurses have been contacted in all schools in the Fairbanks school district. Efforts are underway to update school immunizations for all children attending schools in the Fairbanks area. In compliance with Alaska statute and regulation, children not up-to-date on their immunizations will be excluded from school on January 24.

### MEASLES IN ANCHORAGE

No new cases of measles have been documented in Anchorage in the past three weeks. So far, 11 cases have been confirmed in the Anchorage outbreak. Prompt immunization of contacts resulted in containment of this outbreak. School record review revealed a large number of children not immunized for measles and rubella, and clinics were held to provide immunizations. Approximately 1400 children took advantage of this opportunity and had their immunizations updated. Further efforts are underway in the Anchorage area to protect students still susceptible to measles and for all children in Anchorage schools not already protected. All children attending school who are not immunized are in violation of State law.

### MEASLES IN HOMER

Early in December, a 7-year-old girl was diagnosed as having measles. A school record review of 940 children was done and 300 children were identified as not being immunized by school records. Parents were able to show that 170 of these children had indeed been immunized, and within four days the remaining 130 children had received measles or measles/rubella immunizations. No further cases have occurred in the Homer area.

As reported in the last Communicable Disease Bulletin, Alaska statute and regulation require immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, and rubella of all children attending Alaska's schools. The reappearance of measles in many parts of the state emphasized the importance of full compliance with these laws and regulations as the only effective means to protect our children. The State Health Department officials are working with Department of Education officials and local governing bodies of school boards to improve immunization levels throughout Alaska. We urge full cooperation of all health workers in this effort.

### MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS

Four cases of meningococcal meningitis occurred during the month of December. One case was caused by serogroup B. Serogrouping of the other three cases is pending. Patients were from Kotzebue, Fort Yukon, Fairbanks and Anchorage. Only continued vigilance and rapid treatment will be effective in this serious illness. All suspect cases of meningococcal meningitis must be immediately reported to the health department to allow for administration of antibiotics to contacts.

### HEPATITIS UPDATE - BETHEL AREA

Over 1,000 cases of hepatitis occurred in the Bethel area in 1976. It appears as though the number of new cases is starting to decline. Over 1400 cases of hepatitis occurred throughout the State of Alaska during 1976. Most cases were in rural Alaska children.

### HEPATITIS AT FORT RICHARDSON (AN UPDATE)

One hundred and two cases of hepatitis A have been identified in people associated with Fort Richardson in Anchorage since September 1, 1976. The outbreak has been caused by person to person transmission and there is no evidence of a common source of infection. Some cases have occurred in civilians in Anchorage. The number of new cases is declining.