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Influenza - is A/Texas/1/77 on the Way?

Widespread influenza outbreaks caused by A/Texas/1/77, A/Victoria/3/75 and B/Hong Kong hit Alaska in March and April 1977. The most dramatic outbreak occurred on an airline flight where 35 of 48 passengers developed an acute febrile respiratory illness caused by A/Texas/1/77.

Influenza vaccine for the upcoming flu season contains antigen against A/Victoria/3/75 and Hong Kong/B.

A/Texas/1/77 is an H3N2 virus similar to A/Victoria/3/75, but the virus has experienced antigenic drift. There is no good data on the efficacy of the current A/Victoria vaccine in protecting against A/Texas/1/77.

A/Texas/1/77 virus has been isolated in Oregon, Puerto Rico, Florida, Canada, Australia, and several other countries in September and October, 1977.

It is notoriously difficult to predict influenza activity. However, we can probably expect widespread outbreaks of A/Texas/1/77 during the 1977-78 influenza season.

We are very interested in obtaining viral cultures from patients with upper respiratory illness. Please phone Dr. John Middaugh, Section of Communicable Disease Control, Anchorage, 272-7534, if an outbreak occurs.

Treatment Resistant Venereal Diseases

Penicillinase-producing *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (PPNG) first appeared in the United States more than a year and a half ago. As of August 16, there were 198 cases reported in 26 states and Guam.

No cases of PPNG have been confirmed in Alaska. However, to continue surveillance in this state, CDC and the Section of Communicable Disease Control recommend the following:

1. "Test-of-Cure" cultures should be performed on all patients treated for gonorrhea 3 to 7 days after completion of treatment.
2. If the "test-of-cure" culture is positive, an additional culture should be sent to the State Laboratory requesting that a test for PPNG be performed.
3. Documented treatment failures should be retreated with 2 grams of Spectinomycin intramuscularly.
4. Call Dr. John Middaugh, Medical Epidemiologist at 272-7534, for epidemiological assistance on all patients identified as having PPNG.