



Bulletin No. 4

March 7, 1980

## Reye's Syndrome - Nationwide and Alaska

Since December 1, 1979, 35 states have reported culture proven influenza B activity. From December 1, 1979, through mid-February 1980, 212 cases of Reye's Syndrome have been reported to the National Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. Approximately 50% of these cases have come from Ohio, Michigan, and Minnesota. In the winters of 1976-77, 1977-78, and 1978-79 455 cases, 237 cases, and 325 cases were reported respectively. The case-fatality rate in these patients has been 30%. An attack rate of 1-2 cases of Reye's Syndrome per 100,000 population less than 18 years of age has been determined based upon these reported cases.

In Alaska this year, one case of Reye's Syndrome has been reported in a child from Anchorage. This child survived. In reviewing our recent records we have averaged one reported case per year since 1976.

Since Reye's Syndrome is associated with influenza illness, especially influenza B outbreaks, it is important that an increased awareness of this illness be present this year since the majority of influenza this year is being caused by influenza B/Hong Kong. Certainly nausea and vomiting accompanied by stupor, lethargy, and/or delirium in a child within the week following recovery from upper respiratory illness should be viewed with concern. We are participating with the national surveillance of Reye's Syndrome.

**Please report any suspect cases to this office.**

### **CLARIFICATION REGARDING PROBABLE PROCAINE REACTION**

In the January 11, 1980 Bulletin we described a reaction to procaine penicillin G. thought to represent a procaine reaction. It has been suggested that our report left the impression that procaine reactions are less common than penicillin-related anaphylaxis. Actually procaine reactions appear to occur 1-3 times per 1000 cases and this rate is 5-10 times greater than anaphylaxis. We hope that this clarification will remedy any misconceptions the previous report caused. And thanks to those readers who pointed out this source of confusion.