



Bulletin No. 17
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New Immunization Manual

NEW IMMUNIZATION MANUAL

All of us who administer vaccine or interpret immunization records are confronted with problems in determining whether or not a record is adequate and whether or not additional doses of vaccine are needed. The Immunization Manual was designed to aid in resolving problems related to immunization requirements. Copies of the manual are available upon request from Ned Rasmussen, Immunization Program Coordinator, Section of Communicable Disease Control, Anchorage, 561-4233.

SINGLE TETANUS TOXOID VS. TETANUS-DIPHTHERIA TOXOID (Td)

The Immunization Program has discontinued the distribution of single tetanus toxoid. Recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control state that "Tetanus-Diphtheria (Td) (Adult) is the preferred vaccine in managing wounds of patients seven years and older. For children less than seven years old, DTP or DT (Pediatric) should be used instead of tetanus toxoid alone". Based on these recommendations, WE STRONGLY URGE PHYSICIANS, EMERGENCY ROOMS, AND OTHER PROVIDERS NOT TO ADMINISTER SINGLE TETANUS TOXOID VACCINE.

VACCINE REACTION REPORTING

As of October 1, 1984, five illnesses following vaccination were reported to the Immunization Office. Three individuals received DTP and Polio; two received Td. None required hospitalization, and all recovered. Data concerning reactions are forwarded to the Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia. National data serve two major purposes: (1) similar reports may identify a "hot lot" that may need to be recalled, and (2) data are used to establish reaction rates and to formulate national guidelines concerning risks and benefits for providers and consumers. We encourage you to report! Don't assume someone else will. Call 561-4233 (Anchorage) or toll free by asking the operator for Zenith 1700. Please report adverse reactions whenever a patient was seen by a physician, and whenever a reaction was unusual or severe, even though a physician was not seen.

SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION STATUS 1983-1984 SCHOOL YEAR

Last year, schools reported that 90.9% of children in grades kindergarten through twelve were in compliance with school immunization requirements. A sample of 2338 new enterers (kindergarten or first grade) showed that 94.9% met immunization requirements. The major reason why only 90.9% of the students were immunized was that the Anchorage School District, after a district-wide audit of over 40,000 records, reported compliance of only 81.6%. Approximately 7400 students in the district did not have adequate records documenting that measles and rubella vaccination was received on or after the first birthday, and a significant number also had inadequate documentation for DTP and Polio.

In April, the Anchorage School District sent letters to parents whose children were not in compliance, notifying them that the children could not attend school until needed information or vaccination was provided. As of October 15, 1984, 99.9% of the children in the district were in total compliance. The staff of the Anchorage School District and of school districts statewide are to be commended! Your ongoing efforts are insuring that school children do not suffer from these vaccine preventable diseases. Congratulations to all for your outstanding efforts!

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

As of October 1, 1984, only one case of rubella and eight cases of mumps have been reported in Alaska. We encourage you to report all rash illnesses accompanied by fever. We will assist you to obtain acute and convalescent sera to confirm a clinical diagnosis whenever measles or rubella is suspected. We will also help investigate so that outbreaks can be quickly identified, if necessary, control measures implemented. Suspect cases of measles and rubella can be reported by calling 561-4233 or toll free by asking the operator to dial Zenith 1700.

(Bulletin submitted by Ned Rasmussen, Immunization Program Coordinator, Section of Communicable Disease Control)