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Measles Revaccination Recommendations

One recent suggestion was published for revaccination recommendations for persons vaccinated against measles according to earlier recommendations. This problem has been addressed in the most recent measles prevention recommendations of the P.H.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and reads as follows:

“Persons vaccinated with live measles vaccine before 12 months of age and those vaccinated at any age with inactivated vaccine (available from 1962 to 1967) should be identified and revaccinated. Persons who are unaware of their age at vaccination or who were vaccinated prior to 1968 with a vaccine of unknown type should also be revaccinated. In addition, persons who received live measles vaccine in a series within 3 months of inactivated measles vaccine should be revaccinated.

There has been some confusion concerning the immunity of children vaccinated against measles at 12 months of age. This is because some recent data have indicated a slightly lower rate of seroconversion among children vaccinated at 12 months of age than among those vaccinated at 13 months or later. This difference is not sufficient to warrant routinely revaccinating persons in the former group; the vast majority are fully protected. If, however, the parents of a child vaccinated when 12 to 15 months old request revaccination for the child, there is no immunologic or safety reason to deny the request.”

The complete ACIP measles prevention recommendations are published in the MMWR for November 3, 1978, Vol. 77, No. 44.

Measles In Oregon And Washington

Over the last month there has been widespread measles activity in southwest Washington (Pacific County), and in northwest Oregon including Portland. Well over two hundred cases have now been documented. Jim Farrell, Immunization Advisor in Alaska, has joined other state Advisors, CDC Epidemiologists, and Oregon and Washington Public Health Officers who are attempting to stop the epidemic with mass immunization clinics and school exclusion of susceptibles. Patients suspected of having measles who are seen in the near future should be questioned about travel to Oregon or Washington.