



MONTHLY MORBIDITY REPORT

Reported Morbidity
January, 1982

**PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS and
DIVISION OF DISEASE CONTROL**

NEWS MEDIA REPORTS OF NEED FOR REVACCINATION AGAINST MEASLES

The following communication was received from the Director, Center for Preventive Services of the Centers for Disease Control in reference to news reports in January on the need for revaccination against measles: "Several news services circulated reports of the discussions of the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (ACIP) at its meeting in Atlanta on January 22, 1982, concerning the subject of revaccination of former recipients of killed measles virus vaccine (KMV) with live measles virus vaccine (LMV). Some of those reports contained several inaccuracies.

For many years, the ACIP has recommended revaccination of former recipients of KMV with LMV to prevent natural measles infection and

atypical measles syndrome. Killed measles virus vaccine was available in the United States from 1963 through 1967. It is estimated that only 43,000 of the original 600,000 to 900,000 persons who received killed vaccine are still susceptible to measles. Since measles incidence has now declined to very low levels, and since exaggerated reactions sometimes occur in former recipients of KMV when revaccinated, the Committee evaluated the risk and benefits of continuing the current recommendation to revaccinate those persons.

Some of the dates and numbers provided by the news stories were inaccurate and conveyed the mistaken impression that the vaccine was known to be faulty at the time of administration. The killed

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1981 MEASLES UPDATE

In 1981 only four cases of Rubeola were confirmed in Louisiana and three of these contracted their infections outside of the state. The first two cases were in a 4½ year old child who had visited Disney World in Florida in June and her 6 year old sibling who had onset ten days later. The third case was in August in an 18 year old who had just returned from a 4 week tour of France and Italy. The fourth case occurred in September in an eight year old who had developed symptoms three days after returning from a 2 month stay in Venezuela. Immunization histories revealed that one had received adequate measles immunization, one had not been

immunized because of an allergy to egg protein;* records on the other two were not available.

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***NOTE:** Allergy to eggs is no longer a valid reason to withhold MMR or single antigen measles, mumps, and rubella vaccines according to the United States Public Health Service. These products are highly refined, and studies have indicated that allergic reactions to these products do not occur even among persons known to have significant allergies to eggs and feathers.

**News Media Reports of Need
for Revaccination Against Measles**

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measles virus vaccine was thought at that time to be formulated appropriately and to be effective. Only later was the atypical measles syndrome recognized. Other misinterpretations were that the "faulty" vaccine might have been administered recently, and that 43,000 children are now at high risk of getting measles or atypical measles syndrome. Measles incidence is now at an all-time record low, and the risk of any of these individuals coming in contact with a case of measles is small. The articles conveyed an inappropriate sense of urgency for revaccination. It should be remembered that most persons vaccinated between 1963 and 1967 received LMV rather

than KMV. Having reviewed the issue once again, the Committee recommended to continue its current recommendations about revaccination."

The current recommendations call for the revaccination of children immunized prior to 1 year of age, those who received killed vaccine, those who received live vaccines in rapid sequence (< 3 months separating the injections) and those who received live further attenuated vaccine simultaneously with ISG. None of these procedures were ever practiced in parish health units or in mass immunization clinics sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Health and Human Resources. Therefore, children vaccinated at parish health units or at mass immunization clinics in Louisiana need not be revaccinated.

1981 Measles Update

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Except for the sibling of the case from Florida mentioned above, Louisiana has not had a serologically confirmed indigenous case of measles since October, 1980. High immunization levels, especially among our school age population, is credited for the lack of cases. According to 1981 surveys of two year old children approximately ninety percent have been immunized. Enforcement of immunization requirements for school entrance has boosted the percentage of school-enterers immunized against measles to approximately ninety-eight percent. The measles eradication effort is succeeding.

The following two tables indicate the percentage of 2 year old children and the percentage of first time enterers complete for measles immunization.

2 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Measles					
Immunization	83.2	86.2	87.6	88.0	90.6

FIRST TIME ENTERERS

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Measles					
Immunization	95.5	97.4	96.5	97.9	98.2

Below are the number of cases of measles reported during the same years.

NUMBER OF CASES

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Measles Cases	131	385	268	15	4

CORRECTION

Louisiana Monthly Morbidity Report, January, 1982, page 2, paragraph 2 under News Media Reports of Need for Revaccination Against Measles, should read as follows:

"The current recommendations call for the revaccination of children immunized prior to 1 year of age, those who received killed vaccine only, those who received killed vaccine followed by live measles vaccine in rapid sequence (< 3 months separating the injections), and those who received live further attenuated vaccine simultaneously with ISG. None of those procedures were ever practiced in parish health units or in mass immunization clinics sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Health and Human Resources. Therefore, children vaccinated at parish health units or at mass immunization clinics in Louisiana need not be revaccinated."

SELECTED REPORTABLE DISEASES
(By Place of Residence)

STATE AND PARISH TOTALS REPORTED MORBIDITY JANUARY, 1982	VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES					ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	HEPATITIS A AND UNSPECIFIED	HEPATITIS B	LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE	MALARIA**	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	SHIGELLOSIS	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	UNDERNUTRITION SEVERE	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY	RABIES IN ANIMALS (PARISH TOTALS CUMULATIVE 1982)
	MEASLES	RUBELLA*	MUMPS	PERTUSSIS	TETANUS														
TOTAL TO DATE 19 81	0	0	0	0	0	2	31	12	0	1	2	1	21	0	6	0	1672	108	5
TOTAL TO DATE 19 82	0	0	0	0	0	2	30	12	0	0	3	3	26	0	3	0	1681	126	0
TOTAL THIS MONTH	0	0	0	0	0	2	30	12	0	0	3	3	26	0	3	0	1681	126	0
ACADIA								1									8		
ALLEN																	2		
ASCENSION							1				1								
ASSUMPTION																	2		
AVOYELLES													2				2		
BEAUREGARD																	4	1	
BIENVILLE																	5		
BOSSIER																	15	2	
CADDO											1	1					162	11	
CALCASIEU								1									100	5	
CALDWELL																	1		
CAMERON																	1		
CATAHOULA													1				1		
CLAIBORNE																	1		
CONCORDIA																	2		
DESOTO																	2		
EAST BATON ROUGE													2				7		
EAST CARROLL																	67	7	
EAST FELICIANA																	2	1	
EVANGELINE																	3		
FRANKLIN																	1		
GRANT																	4		
IBERIA							5						1				3		
IBERVILLE																	12		
JACKSON																	1		
JEFFERSON																	2		
JEFFERSON DAVIS						1	11	3				2	5		1		128	6	
LAFAYETTE								1				1					21		
LAFOURCHE											1		2		1		36	3	
LASALLE													2				15	5	
LINCOLN																	1	1	
LIVINGSTON													1				1	2	
MADISON																	7		
MOREHOUSE																	2		
NATCHITOCHE																	1		
ORLEANS						1	6	4					3		1		671	62	
OUACHITA							3						1				104	3	
PLAQUEMINES																	4		
POINTE COUPEE																			
RAPIDES													1						2
RED RIVER																	78	1	
RICHLAND																			1
SABINE													1				7		
ST. BERNARD																	4		
ST. CHARLES							1	1									6		
ST. HELENA																	6		
ST. JAMES																	7		
ST. JOHN																	4		
ST. LANDRY							1						2				23	1	
ST. MARTIN																	12		
ST. MARY								1											
ST. TAMMANY							1										16	1	
TANGIPAHOA																	20	1	
TENSAS																			
TERREBONNE							1										17	1	
UNION																	5		
VERMILION																	3		
VERNON																	3		
WASHINGTON													1				5	3	
WEBSTER																	24	1	
WEST BATON ROUGE																	15	1	
WEST CARROLL																	4		
WEST FELICIANA																	9	3	
WINN																	4		
OUT OF STATE																	9	1	

* Includes Rubella, Congenital Syndrome.
** Acquired outside United States unless otherwise stated.



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