

Louisiana



Reported Morbidity
June, 1984

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
OFFICE OF HEALTH SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
BOX 60630 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160

MONTHLY MORBIDITY REPORT

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

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INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM 1984-1985

Health Department Clinics will provide influenza immunization again this year to individuals who are at high risk of serious illness or death from influenza infection. Vaccine will be available starting September 10, 1984 and will be offered to individuals 65 years of age and older and to all persons with chronic disorders of the cardiovascular, pulmonary and/or renal systems, metabolic disorders, severe anemia and/or compromised immune function.

Influenza strains anticipated to be prevalent in 1984-85 will be closely related to A/Philippines/2/82 (H3N2), A/Chile/1/83 (H1N1) and B/USSR/100/83. These are the strains included in the vaccine this year. The type A (H1N1) and type B components represent changes from the 1983-84 vaccine. All previous year's vaccine should be discarded.

Because of budget restrictions Health Department vaccine will be limited to the above broadly defined high risk groups; however, the United States Public Health Service Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (ACIP) has further classified these groups on the basis of priority and has added additional categories. Highest priority is given to adults and children with chronic disorders of the cardiovascular

and pulmonary systems that are severe enough to have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year, and to residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities (e.g. institutions having patients of any age with chronic medical conditions).

Because of the potential for introducing influenza to high risk groups such as patients with severely compromised cardiopulmonary or immune systems or infants in neonatal intensive care units, physicians, nurses and other personnel who have extensive contact with such patients should be vaccinated annually.

After considering the needs for the above target groups, the ACIP gives the next priority to persons at moderately increased risk of serious illness compared with the general population. This includes otherwise healthy individuals over 65 years of age and adults and children with chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal dysfunction, anemia, immunosuppression, or asthma that are severe enough to have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalization during the preceding year.

Physicians are encouraged to administer vaccine to any person who wishes to reduce their chances of acquiring influenza infection. Also, vaccination programs for persons who provide essential community services

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are recommended.

Only one 0.5 ml dose of whole or split virus vaccine is required for persons over 12 years of age. Children 6 months to 12 years of age who have not received influenza vaccine from 1978 to 1983 should receive two doses of split virus vaccine. If vaccine has been administered during these years one

dose is sufficient. The dosage of split virus vaccine for children is 0.25 ml for those 6 to 35 months of age and 0.5 ml for those 3 to 12 years of age.

Questions concerning the departments influenza immunization program may be directed to the respective parish health units or to the Division of Disease Control at (504) 568-5005.

WORLD'S FAIR SURVEILLANCE PROJECT UPDATE

Fifteen hospital Emergency Departments (EDs) in the Metropolitan New Orleans area are currently participating in active surveillance for possible Fair related illnesses. The following report summarizes results of this surveillance from May 12 to July 13, the first 9 weeks of the World's Fair.¹

A total of 83,708 patients have been seen in the 15 EDs; 176 of these patients have been considered by the attending physicians to have definite or possibly Fair related illnesses.² An additional 7 cases have been reported by non-ED physicians and 5 reports have been received from private individuals for a total of 188 Fair related illnesses. An average of 21 cases have been reported per week.

Ninety one, or 48.4%, of these cases were trauma. This includes 16 fractures, 13 contusions, 12 lacerations, 10 sprains, 2 burns and 38 other or unknown types of trauma.

Forty seven, or 25%, of reported cases are in the "other" category. Fifteen of these cases are dermatologic, 11 cardiac (MI-4, angina-4, palpitations or arrhythmias-3), 9 neurological (syncope-3, headache-3, seizure-2, aseptic

meningitis-1), 7 musculo-skeletal (mostly pain), 2 allergic reactions and 3 other or unknown. At least 11 of the dermatologic cases reported are an unusual dermatitis that is non-febrile, appears bilaterally on the medial lower legs and affects primarily middle-aged women. The etiology of this rash is unclear.

Thirty three cases (17.6% of total) of acute gastroenteritis have been identified. Investigation has been completed for 15 of these cases. No common source of food has been identified for any of these cases.

To date the Fair has had a negligible impact on emergency health care delivery in the New Orleans area. The 176 ED patients reported above represent 0.21% of the 83,708 total patients seen in these hospitals. In only two hospitals have the Fair related visits represented more than 1% of the total ED visits. Fourteen of the 15 surveillance hospitals have seen at least 1 Fair related illness.

Total ED visits in these hospitals is down 7.2% compared to the same time period of 1983. Four hospitals are seeing more patients than in 1983; 11

hospitals have had decreases of from 4% to 27%. The cause(s) of this drop in patients is not clear but recent proliferation of free-standing Emergency clinics in the area is probably a factor.

Active surveillance for Fair related illness will continue until the Fair closes in November. We encourage reports of suspected Fair related illnesses, particularly gastroenteritis and febrile rashes, from private physicians and health units. To report a case, please call the Disease Control Division at (504) 568-5005 Monday

through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM or (504) 488-4516 nights or weekends.

1 Surveillance data available only for weeks 8 and 9 from one ED.

2 Definite Fair related: onset of illness at or around the Fairsite; includes trauma, heat related illnesses and most "others", such as angina and syncope.

Possible Fair related: onset of illness within 72 hours of Fair contact; includes infectious diseases such as gastroenteritis and respiratory infections.

SKUNK RABIES - ALEXANDRIA *

The Alexandria regional laboratory has reported eight skunks positive for rabies virus since May 30. This represents 100% of the skunks examined from the Alexandria area in this time period. All eight animals were obtained from an approximately 8 square mile area south of the city near the Louisiana State University campus. Eleven dogs were possibly exposed; six have been destroyed and five are being quarantined. One human was possibly exposed and is undergoing post-exposure prophylaxis.

Skunk rabies first appeared in Rapides parish in 1977. Since that time a total of 24 positive skunks have been identified, an average of 3.2 animals per year. Ten of these 24 were in 1979. No animal rabies was identified in

Rapides in 1983.

Skunk rabies is not unique to Rapides parish. So far this year 27 positive skunks have been identified in 7 parishes - Caddo (9), Bossier (3), Webster (2), Claiborne (2), Bienville (2) and Natchitoches (1). Rapides parish is the furthest south that animal rabies has been identified this year.

Dogs and cats should be protected from rabies by vaccination. The Louisiana Sanitary Code requires rabies vaccination for all dogs over the age of 3 months. Pre-exposure vaccination for humans is not recommended except for certain high-risk persons such as laboratory and animal control personnel and veterinarians.

* The table on page 4 does not include cases reported to Public Health Statistics after June 30, 1984.

SELECTED REPORTABLE DISEASES (By Place of Residence)

STATE AND PARISH TOTALS REPORTED MORBIDITY JUNE, 1984	VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES															RABIES IN ANIMALS (PARISH TOTALS CUMULATIVE, 1984)					
	MEASLES	RUBELLA*	MUMPS	PERTUSSIS	TETANUS	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	HEPATITIS A AND UNSPECIFIED**	HEPATITIS B	LEGIONELLOSIS	MALARIA ***	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	SHIGELLOSIS	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS		UNDERNUTRITION SEVERE	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY		
TOTAL TO DATE 1983	25	9	0	2	3	25	436	186	3	4	35	31	213	3	100	12	10220	811	19		
TOTAL TO DATE 1984	0	0	0	3	1	20	159	175	0	5	41	29	144	1	63	7	12902	621	23		
TOTAL THIS MONTH	0	0	0	0	0	9	31	50	0	1	5	12	30	0	22	1	2652	109	4		
ACADIA								1	2									11	3		
ALLEN																			1		
ASCENSION							1											12	2		
ASSUMPTION																			10		
AVOUELLES								1											8		
BEAUREGARD																		5	1		
BIENVILLE																		12		1	
BOSSIER						2		1							1			11	2	5	
CADDO						2	4	4			1	3	4					294	10	8	
CALCASIEU							3	3		1			1					94	3		
CALDWELL																					
CAMERON																			1		
CATAHOULA																			3		
CLAIBORNE																			6		
CONCORDIA								1								1			3		2
DESOTO						2		1							1				2		1
EAST BATON ROUGE							3	2										157	12		
EAST CARROLL																			10	2	
EAST FELICIANA																			4	1	
EVANGELINE															1				4		
FRANKLIN																			10		
GRANT																			2		
IBERIA													1						15	1	
IBERVILLE															1				2		
JACKSON																			3		
JEFFERSON							1	8			1	2	3		1			154	6		
JEFFERSON DAVIS																			5		
LAFAYETTE						1							2		1			98	7		
LAFOURCHE													1		2			40			
LASALLE																			1		
LINCOLN																			5		
LIVINGSTON													1		1				4		
MADISON																			18	3	
MOREHOUSE							2											35	1		
NATCHITOCHE							1	1				1						10	2	1	
ORLEANS						2	2	17			1	2	9		3			1008	31		
OUACHITA													1					143	1		
PLAQUEMINES																			2		
POINTE COUPEE																					
RAPIDES							2	1				1			1			120	4	2	
RED RIVER																			2	1	
RICHLAND													2						13	1	
SABINE																					
ST. BERNARD							1	1											2	1	
ST. CHARLES							1	1					1						12		
ST. HELENA																					
ST. JAMES																			25		
ST. JOHN												2							17	1	
ST. LANDRY							1	1				1							41	1	
ST. MARTIN																			11		
ST. MARY								1				1	2						18	1	
ST. TAMMANY								1				1			2				11		
TANGIPAHOA													1						14	3	
TENSAS																			1		
TERREBONNE								1											58		
UNION															2				2	3	
VERMILION							3								1				5	1	
VERNON							1												64	3	
WASHINGTON															3				5		
WEBSTER							2						1						11	1	3
WEST BATON ROUGE													1						1		
WEST CARROLL							1												4		
WEST FELICIANA															1						
WINN																			6		
OUT OF STATE																			6		

* Includes Rubella, Congenital Syndrome.

** Includes 9 cases of Hepatitis Non A and Non B.

*** Acquired outside United States unless otherwise stated.

From January 1, 1984 - June 30, 1984, the following cases were also reported:

6-Amebiasis, 45-H-Flu Meningitis, 1-Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, 3-Tularemia, 1-Poliomyelitis, Paralytic.

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