

LOUISIANA MONTHLY MORBIDITY

DISEASES REPORTED DURING MONTH OF

MARCH, 1968

BY PARISH OF RESIDENCE

QUESTIONS ON RUBELLA DIAGNOSIS

Since the State Laboratory made available the hemagglutination inhibition test for the diagnosis of rubella, several physicians have asked questions concerning the application of the test.

- (1) Congenital rubella - An antibody titer in the first 6 months of life may reflect the presence of maternal antibody and not congenital infection. By 6 months, the maternal antibody has disappeared. For this reason, the physician should wait to obtain a serum specimen until the child is between 6 and 12 months of age. Isolation of the virus is difficult, and there is evidence suggesting that excretion is intermittent. Therefore, the failure to isolate the virus does not rule out the diagnosis of congenital rubella. (Continued of Page 3).

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS -

- LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RELEASED April 8, 1968	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHTHERIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTIONOUS	INFECTIOUS AND SERUM HEPATITIS	MEASLES	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	PERTUSSIS	POLIOMYELITIS, PARALYTIC	RABIES IN ANIMALS	RHEUMATIC FEVER	STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	SHIGELLOSIS	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	TETANUS	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS
TOTAL TO DATE 19 67	6	4	2	1	111	63	48	3	0	22	3	31	20	11	43	0	273	1694	537
TOTAL TO DATE 19 68	1	5	3	0	164	1	52	1	0	17	5	54	9	1	28	4	246	1841	577
TOTAL THIS MONTH	1	0	0	0	55	0	11	0	0	5	1	43	2	0	11	4	104	619	225
ACADIA																	3	8	1
ALLEN																			
ASCENSION												1							
ASSUMPTION							1												
AVOUELLES					4												3		1
BEAUREGARD																	1	1	
BIENVILLE																	1		1
BOSSIER					2		1										2	23	3
CADDO					2								1				2	82	31
CALCASIEU					1							1			3		3	11	7
CALDWELL																			
CAMERON																			
CATAHOULA																	1		
CLAIBORNE																			
CONCORDIA																			9
DESOTO																		3	
EAST BATON ROUGE					1										4	2	6	7	17
EAST CARROLL																			
EAST FELICIANA																			
EVANGELINE																	3		
FRANKLIN																			1
GRANT																			2
IBERIA																			1
IBERVILLE																	1	3	4

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JACKSON																			
JEFFERSON					2		1				1	3					1	21	13
JEFFERSON DAVIS																		2	3
LAFAYETTE					1												1	5	4
LAFOURCHE					1														2
LASALLE																			
LINCOLN										1							1	3	1
LIVINGSTON																		2	
MADISON					1														3
MOREHOUSE																		3	1
NATCHITOCHE					2													5	
ORLEANS	1				20		3					35	1		2		48	214	79
OUACHITA					3												6	40	3
PLAQUEMINES												1						1	3
POINTE COUPEE																			1
RAPIDES																1	4	3	3
RED RIVER																			2
RICHLAND					3												1	2	1
SABINE					2													1	1
ST. BERNARD					1		1					1						1	
ST. CHARLES					1											1			1
ST. HELENA																		1	
ST. JAMES																			1
ST. JOHN					2														1
ST. LANDRY															2		3	12	3
ST. MARTIN																		4	
ST. MARY					1		1										3	1	3
ST. TAMMANY					1		1											6	2
TANGIPAHOA																	3	18	1
TENSAS							1												
TERREBONNE					3		1											3	3
UNION										1							1	3	
VERMILION																	1	1	
VERNON																	2	118	2
WASHINGTON																	1	9	4
WEBSTER					1					3								1	2
WEST BATON ROUGE																	1		
WEST CARROLL																			
WEST FELICIANA												1					1		4
WINN																		1	
OUT OF STATE																			

From January 1 through March 31 of 1968, the following cases were also reported:
7 Malaria (contracted outside U.S.A.)

- (2) The significance of a single titer - On the basis of existing studies a single positive titer is interpreted as evidence of infection with rubella virus at some undetermined time. It is not evidence of a current infection. The diagnosis of an acute case of rubella requires both an acute and convalescent serum specimen, to demonstrate a four fold rise in antibody.
- (3) Diagnostic rise in titer - At the present time, a four fold rise in titer is required for the diagnosis of rubella. This has correlated closely with fetal infection when rubella has occurred in early pregnancy. If there is a rise in titer, but not a four fold rise, then the specimens will be sent to the National Communicable Disease Center for complement fixation titers. The complement fixation may show a significant rise in an acute case even when the hemagglutination inhibition test does not.

TETANUS - LOUISIANA

Four cases of tetanus have been reported in Louisiana during the first quarter of 1968, three of which occurred in late 1967. All were elderly individuals with the ages being 60, 82, 83 and 84 years. The injuries included a crushed finger, a nail puncture and two lacerations. Three of these occurred in the home. None of the patients were known to have received tetanus toxoid prior to the injury, but one had served in the second World War. The initial symptom was trismus in two of the cases, and dysphagia in the other two. Treatment consisted of antibiotics in all four cases, antitoxin in three, and tetanus hyperimmune globulin in two. The surviving patient, who may have received immunizations in the past, was the youngest of the four, and was treated with antibiotics, antitoxin (greater than 100,000 units) and hyperimmune globulin. These cases in Louisiana reflect a change in the age distribution of fatal tetanus which has been seen throughout the United States with a relative increase in the over 70 age group.