

LOUISIANA MONTHLY MORBIDITY

DISEASES REPORTED DURING MONTH OF JUNE, 1969

BY PARISH OF RESIDENCE

FOODBORNE OUTBREAK AT RUSTON

On May 21, 1969 a foodborne outbreak occurred following the noon senior banquet at Louisiana Tech. in Ruston. There were 240 cold plates served and at least 138 persons became ill with nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and cramps. Incubation periods varied from ½ hour to 20 hours but averaged about 3 hours. From the symptoms and the incubation period, this was presumed to be staphylococcal contamination. No one became ill who had not eaten the cold plate, except for the food servers who had sampled the foods in the morning during preparation. At least 75 per cent of the people who ate each food item served became ill, but none of the persons who did not eat chicken salad became ill, incriminating chicken salad as the responsible vehicle. (Continued on Page 3)

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS -

- LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RELEASED JULY 7, 1969	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHTHERIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTION	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 1968	74	7	22	7	343	2	74	6	0	25	9	156	32	2	56	5	538	3853	1192
TOTAL TO DATE 1969	14	4	19	1	424	120	72	1	0	16	10	183	24	0	36	5	351	4484	1168
TOTAL THIS MONTH	4	0	1	0	56	17	3	0	0	3	2	13	1	0	6	0	30	820	205
ACADIA						1											1	3	1
ALLEN																			
ASCENSION																		2	2
ASSUMPTION					1													4	
AVOYELLES					1													3	1
BEAUREGARD																			
BIENVILLE					1													2	
BOSSIER																		3	
CADDO					2												1	68	13
CALCASIEU					5		1								1			29	2
CALDWELL																			
CAMERON																			
CATAHOULA																			
CLAIBORNE										2								1	
CONCORDIA																			
DESOTO																		1	7
EAST BATON ROUGE					4	16											3	24	20
EAST CARROLL																			1
EAST FELICIANA																			3
EVANGELINE																		2	
FRANKLIN					1													2	
GRANT																		1	
IBERIA					1													2	4
IBERVILLE																		8	2

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RELEASED July 7, 1969	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHThERIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTIOUS	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
JACKSON																			
JEFFERSON	1				6		1					1			1		2	68	13
JEFFERSON DAVIS															1			1	
LAFAYETTE					1													10	1
LAFOURCHE					1														1
LASALLE					2														
LINCOLN																		2	
LIVINGSTON																	1	2	
MADISON					3													1	1
MOREHOUSE																		3	
NATCHITOCHES					1												1	4	1
ORLEANS	1				14							12	1		1		10	314	90
OUACHITA					1												2	38	5
PLAQUEMINES					1														1
POINTE COUPEE																			
RAPIDES					3												1	17	2
RED RIVER																		1	
RICHLAND																		2	1
SABINE																			
ST. BERNARD															1			4	
ST. CHARLES																		1	1
ST. HELENA											1								1
ST. JAMES																			2
ST. JOHN											1								2
ST. LANDRY					3												5	13	1
ST. MARTIN															1			1	
ST. MARY							1											1	3
ST. TAMMANY																		19	
TANGIPAHOA																		1	3
TENSAS																			
TERREBONNE	2		1		2														1
UNION																			2
VERMILION																	2		
VERNON					2												1	136	3
WASHINGTON																		13	6
WEBSTER										1								2	
WEST BATON ROUGE																			1
WEST CARROLL																		2	
WEST FELICIANA																		9	6
WINN																			1
OUT OF STATE																			

From January 1 through June 30 of 1969, the following cases were also reported: 27 Malaria (contracted outside U.S.A.); 1 Brucellosis, 3 Leptospirosis, and 2 Tularemia.

Cultures of food items showed 30 million Staphylococci per gram of chicken salad with Staph. contamination of other items as well. Staph. of the same phage type was isolated from the stools of two patients hospitalized in the outbreak. Analysis of the chicken salad showed enterotoxin A, the most common toxin in Staph. food poisoning. Recently some persons have been shown to have antibody against this toxin which may explain why some who ate the responsible food item were not affected.

Examination of the food handlers showed no skin lesions. Five of the eighteen food handlers were found to carry Staph. aureus in their nasal passages but not of the same phage type as that found in the food. The chicken was cooked on one day, picked on the next and served on the next. Refrigeration temperatures were adequate but the food may have been left out during preparation long enough to incubate the Staph. before serving.

MEASLES OUTBREAK - EAST BATON ROUGE

Twenty-six cases of measles were reported in East Baton Rouge Parish during the month of May. Most of the affected children were students in three different elementary schools.

Epidemiologic measures were instituted to prevent further spread within the school, and 777 children were immunized with U. S. Public Health Service epidemic stockpile measles vaccine on May 21.

Two additional spread cases were reported in nearby Livingston Parish, and 730 children in this parish received the vaccine on May 23.

This points out the need for prompt reporting of cases, locating pockets of susceptible children, and taking immediate action to protect them. An analysis of the data collected on this particular measles outbreak indicates that many of the cases might have been prevented, had the first cases been promptly reported and investigated.