

# LOUISIANA MONTHLY MORBIDITY

DISEASES REPORTED DURING MONTH OF **March, 1969**

BY PARISH OF RESIDENCE

## MEASLES EPIDEMIC - ALLEN PARISH

Forty-one cases of measles occurred in a small community in Allen Parish between March 5 and March 21, 1969. Investigations revealed that a child from Texas with a morbilliform rash had visited relatives in Allen Parish from February 12 through February 16. The first cases in the present epidemic were exposed to this child.

Thirty-two of the cases were in school children attending a school that was not reporting regularly. Nine cases occurred among preschool children. The parish health unit was not aware of the epidemic until a concerned parent reported that her child and numerous other children in the school were ill with measles. By this time the disease had spread to a large proportion of other susceptible children.

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DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS -

- LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RELEASED April 2, 1969	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHTHERIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTIONOUS	INFECTIONOUS 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	1	5	3	0	163	1	52	1	0	17	5	53	9	1	27	4	245	1840	572
TOTAL TO DATE 1969	3	3	6	1	215	53	38	0	0	13	4	139	15	0	19	2	245	1963	545
TOTAL THIS MONTH	1	3	2	0	61	51	9	0	0	9	0	50	4	0	4	0	94	677	216
ACADIA					1												4	4	1
ALLEN						40												1	1
ASCENSION					1												2	3	1
ASSUMPTION																	4	5	1
AVOUELLES					2												1		1
BEAUREGARD						1											3		
BIENVILLE										1									1
BOSSIER																	1	1	
CADDO					1		2			1			2				3	54	22
CALCASIEU					6	4	1								2		2	27	3
CALDWELL																			2
CAMERON																			
CATAHOULA																			
CLAIBORNE										1								2	
CONCORDIA			1														1		3
DESOTO																	2	2	
EAST BATON ROUGE					2							1					5	25	16
EAST CARROLL																	1	3	1
EAST FELICIANA																	1		4
EVANGELINE																	2		1
FRANKLIN					1														
GRANT																			
IBERIA		2													1		2	5	5
IBERVILLE																	2	3	5

Louisiana Department

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS -		- LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH																	
RELEASED	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
April 2, 1969																			
JACKSON									1								1	1	
JEFFERSON	1		1		6							3					3	46	14
JEFFERSON DAVIS															1		1	1	
LAFAYETTE		1			4							3					5	6	1
LAFOURCHE												1					1	3	2
LASALLE																			
LINCOLN									1								2	7	2
LIVINGSTON					2													1	1
MADISON					1														3
MOREHOUSE																	1	3	4
NATCHITOCHE					1													1	2
ORLEANS					7	1						30	2				18	291	71
OUACHITA					3												1	33	9
PLAQUEMINES					3														1
POINTE COUPEE					1														2
RAPIDES					1	1											2	4	4
RED RIVER																			1
RICHLAND					2													6	1
SABINE					1													2	1
ST. BERNARD																		2	1
ST. CHARLES																	2	1	
ST. HELENA					2													2	
ST. JAMES																		1	
ST. JOHN																			1
ST. LANDRY					1	2											6	10	2
ST. MARTIN							1										1	2	3
ST. MARY					4		1												1
ST. TAMMANY					1												4	15	1
TANGIPAOHA					1												2	7	7
TENSAS																			
TERREBONNE					4												2	3	3
UNION												6						1	
VERMILION							1					4					2	1	
VERNON						3	1											63	1
WASHINGTON					2												2	11	2
WEBSTER						1			4								2	6	2
WEST BATON ROUGE																			2
WEST CARROLL																			
WEST FELICIANA												2						9	1
WINN																		3	1
OUT OF STATE																			

From January 1 through March 31 of 1969, the following cases were also reported:  
 11 Malaria (contracted outside U.S.A.); 1 Brucellosis; 1 Leptospirosis

Only one case had a history of previous measles immunizations. Among the affected school children, approximately 17 were above the age that would have been eligible for vaccine during the mass immunization campaign in 1967. At that time vaccine was offered to children through the 3rd grade in school.

To prevent further spread within the community and to other adjacent communities, state and local health department personnel, utilizing U. S. Public Health Service epidemic control stockpile measles vaccine, immunized 1,600 children throughout the parish on March 19, 1969.

During the investigation of the present epidemic, it was discovered that one of the cases resided in an adjacent community in Vernon Parish and that an additional case not definitely known to be associated resided in a nearby community in Beauregard Parish. On March 28 epidemic control immunization programs were conducted in each of these communities.

This epidemic, the first of its magnitude since the 1967 statewide mass immunization programs, points up the need for searching out and immunizing pockets of susceptible children in other areas. (Measles vaccine is now available in parish health units for all children from 1 to 12 years of age.) It also emphasizes the need for prompt reporting of cases by school officials and physicians. An evaluation of the data collected on the above epidemic indicates that some of the cases might have been prevented, had the first cases been reported promptly to the health department.

(Two additional associated cases in preschool children were discovered in Vernon Parish just prior to publication.)

### FAMILY OUTBREAK OF TUBERCULOSIS

In early May 1968 a young mother and father of four children were diagnosed as having pulmonary tuberculosis. Upon examination of the children, it was found that their 3 year old child had a positive Intermediate PPD of 12 mm and a chest film which showed a cavitory RUL lesion. This child was hospitalized for treatment.

All of the three remaining children, ages 2 years, 7 years, and 8 years had negative Intermediate PPD'S. The 2 year old child was re-tested four months later, and the Intermediate PPD had converted with a positive 10 mm reaction. The chest X ray showed no evidence of pulmonary disease. This child was started on drug therapy. However, the 7 year old and 8 year old children were not re-tested until nine months later. Their Intermediate PPD's were positive at this time with a 11 mm and a 15 mm reaction, respectively. Their chest films showed evidence of tuberculosis with increased hilar markings bilaterally and bilateral adenopathy. Then they were started on therapy.

In conclusion it can be said in light of the outcome of the above cases that all of the children should have been put on medication as soon as the diagnosis of the parents was made, instead of waiting for the conversion of the Intermediate PPD to a positive reaction and the development of lung pathology.