

LOUISIANA MONTHLY MORBIDITY

DISEASES REPORTED DURING MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1970

BY PARISH OF RESIDENCE

OUTBREAK OF MEASLES - WEST MONROE

On October 19, 1970, the Ouachita Parish Health Unit was notified by physicians of three cases of red measles occurring in the Woodlawn School District in West Monroe. Preliminary investigation at the Woodlawn School on October 21, 1970, revealed that 27 students had recently been reported absent with suspected measles. Further investigation revealed that most of these students rode on one of 6 school busses, bus No. 113.

The first school child to develop measles, a second grade boy (T.T.), became ill on
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DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS -

- LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RELEASED : December 4, 1970	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHTHERIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTION	INFECTIOUS AND SERUM HEPATITIS	MEASLES	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	PERTUSSIS	POLIOMYELITIS, PARALYTIC	RABIES IN ANIMALS	RHEUMATIC FEVER	RUBELLA *	SHIGELLOSIS	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	TETANUS	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
TOTAL TO DATE 1969	52	30	36	4	827	125	97	13	0	39	14	38	40	4	299	7	682	9113	648
TOTAL TO DATE 1970	126	28	16	15	621	174	69	31	0	67	10	161	28	10	88	4	697	10677	704
TOTAL THIS MONTH	8	2	1	0	65	26	4	1	0	4	0	5	2	0	16	0	56	881	44
ACADIA																		10	
ALLEN					1													2	
ASCENSION																			
ASSUMPTION																			
AVOUELLES																	1	2	
BEAUREGARD																			
BIENVILLE																		1	
BOSSIER																	2	6	
CADDO					7												6	108	12
CALCASIEU					3										3		2	17	
CALDWELL																			
CAMERON																			1
CATAHOULA																			
CLAIBORNE					1													2	
CONCORDIA																		1	
DESOTO																		3	1
EAST BATON ROUGE													1		6		4	41	6
EAST CARROLL																		7	
EAST FELICIANA																	1		
EVANGELINE															1			3	
FRANKLIN																			1
GRANT																		2	
IBERIA			1														1	1	
IBERVILLE					1													3	

* Includes Rubella, Congenital Syndrome

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JACKSON					1														1
JEFFERSON	1				5		3					2			2		11	32	2
JEFFERSON DAVIS																			
LAFAYETTE	3					1												17	
LAFOURCHE						1											2	3	
LASALLE					3													1	
LINCOLN					7													3	
LIVINGSTON																		3	
MADISON																		1	2
MOREHOUSE																		31	
NATCHITOCHES							1											12	
ORLEANS	3				13	6		1				1			2		9	307	10
OUACHITA						11				1							1	54	2
PLAQUEMINES																		4	
POINTE COUPEE																			
RAPIDES					2												7	27	
RED RIVER																	2	1	
RICHLAND																		3	
SABINE																			
ST. BERNARD		1			1												1		
ST. CHARLES																			
ST. HELENA																		2	
ST. JAMES																			
ST. JOHN																	2	3	
ST. LANDRY					4												1	12	1
ST. MARTIN					2														
ST. MARY	1				1	1												1	2
ST. TAMMANY					2	1							1					6	
TANGIPAHOA																	1	11	
TENSAS																			
TERREBONNE			1												1			2	
UNION																		3	
VERMILION					2										1			1	
VERNON					9	5						2						80	1
WASHINGTON																	1	26	
WEBSTER																	1	7	1
WEST BATON ROUGE																			
WEST CARROLL																		1	
WEST FELICIANA																		16	1
WINN										3								2	
OUT OF STATE																			

From January 1 through November 30 of 1970, the following cases were also reported:
 1 Brucellosis, 5 Leprosy, 2 Leptospirosis, 46 Malaria (Contracted outside U.S.A.) and
 2 Trichinosis.

October 7, 1970. His one year old sister had been diagnosed as having measles by a doctor on September 28, 1970, and subsequently, 4 other family members became ill. Nevertheless, T.T. went to school on October 7, 1970, as usual, on bus 113. Secondary cases in children at the Woodlawn School began occurring on October 14, 1970. All cases which subsequently developed were children who rode on bus 113, were in T.T.'s classroom, or in the cafeteria at the same time as T.T. Investigation of the route of bus 113 showed that the cases tended to cluster about T.T.'s home. Home interviews in the neighborhood revealed a number of additional measles cases in preschool children and in children who attended other schools.

All cases not diagnosed by physicians were confirmed by public health nurses. Of the original 27 school cases, six had previously received measles vaccine. Most of these were vaccinated prior to 1966, when the use of further-attenuated vaccines (making concomitant use of gamma-globulin unnecessary) became widespread.

The Epidemiology Section was notified by telephone, and, on the basis of epidemiologic data gathered, epidemic control measures were planned. On October 27, 1970, 338 measles immunizations were given by the Parish Health Unit with assistance provided by the Epidemiology Section.

Following the immunization campaign, a single case of measles was reported with onset on November 23, 1970. In this girl, the signs were somewhat atypical, and the rash cleared within 3 days.

Reported by Tommie Campbell, R.N., Rosemary Williams, R.N. and Dr. W. Carroll Summer of the Ouachita Parish Health Unit.

Editorial Comment:

The investigation reported above brings out several points worthy of comment. The rapidity and thoroughness with which the school outbreak was studied demonstrated early in the outbreak that all cases had occurred among children exposed in a few, well defined settings, i.e., in T.T.'s school bus, classroom and cafeteria session. This indicated that the outbreak was potentially extensive, since the students from all the other classrooms, busses, etc., who perhaps had not yet been exposed but probably would be, presumably contained a similar percentage of susceptibles as the groups in which measles occurred. Thus, with a possible epidemic at hand, control measures were instituted. The fact that only a single case occurred after the immunization campaign, despite both a setting and an organism favorable for easy disease spread, demonstrates the value of such a campaign conducted early during a potentially large outbreak. The single case which did occur probably is explained by the fact that 2% to 5% of immunized individuals will fail to develop antibodies. Evidence to date suggests, however, that those who do initially develop antibodies are protected against clinical measles for life. Finally, the large number of cases occurring in T.T.'s second grade class points to the existence of a large reservoir of susceptibles. Current first and second graders entered school after the mass school immunization campaigns of 1967. This should emphasize the need for screening children entering school to insure that they will have had their measles immunization in accordance with state law.