



## MONTHLY MORBIDITY REPORT

### Provisional Statistics

FROM THE

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS

Reported Morbidity  
August, 1975

### VD COURSE FOR PHYSICIANS

The Center for Disease Control, U.S.P.H.S., will present the course, "VD Update" at the State Office Building in New Orleans on November 18-20, 1975, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., daily. The course is designed for clinicians with a continuing commitment to venereal disease control in clinical services, teaching, or research. Following the course, participants will continue to be provided with periodic printed material and

assistance with curricula and teaching programs.

Participants would be expected to attend the entire 3-day course. Please indicate your interest to Dr. C. T. Caraway, Section of Communicable Disease Control, P.O. Box 60630, New Orleans, La., 70160. Applications will be furnished to those interested.

### EPIDEMIOLOGIC BRIEFS:

(1) **SAINT LOUIS ENCEPHALITIS:** To date (September 10, 1975) there have been 6 confirmed cases and 3 suspect cases of disease due to this virus. All cases are located in Monroe, Louisiana, all are over 40 years of age, and all survived. No new cases have been reported since August 25, 1975.

Nationwide cases have occurred in Illinois (including Cook County), Arkansas, Texas, Indiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, New Jersey, Ohio, North Dakota, Kentucky, Georgia, and Missouri. Epidemics have occurred in Cook County, Illinois, and in areas of Mississippi.

Physicians are encouraged to send specimens to the regional laboratories of the Division of Health on all cases of aseptic meningitis or encephalitis (see Louisiana Morbidity Report, July, 1975). Please label each specimen with patient's name, address, and suspected diagnosis,



doctor's name and address, type of specimen (e.g., stool, serum, CSF. . .), and type of test desired (e.g., viral culture, arbovirus serology. . .).

(2) **HEPATITIS:** The Epidemiology Unit continues its hepatitis surveillance and requests all physicians to report their cases to the local health unit as soon as possible. Information obtained by local health unit personnel from both patient and doctor allows the unit to detect

early case clustering and possible common sources. Physicians should know that the Epidemiology Unit will provide gamma globulin to contacts of cases as requested by the physician.

The following table summarizes hepatitis reporting in June and July, 1975. The physicians in the 39 parishes that have not reported any cases of hepatitis are especially encouraged to help with surveillance.

(3) **SALMONELLA TYPHIMURIUM** in Lafourche Parish (reported by Larry J. Legendre, Sanitarian, Jennie B. Martin, PHN, and the staff of the Lafourche Parish Health Unit): a food-borne epidemic of Salmonella typhimurium occurred among guests of a wedding reception on August 16, 1975. Approximately 168 of the 350 guests who attended the reception became ill with non-bloody diarrhea (97%), abdominal cramping (84%), fever or weakness (75%), headache (70%), or vomiting (27%). The illness occurred about 20

**Table 1**  
**REPORTED CASES OF HEPATITIS BY PARISH**  
**JUNE - JULY, 1975**

PARISH	HEPATITIS CASES			
	TYPE A	TYPE B	TYPE UNKNOWN	TOTAL CASES
ACADIA	2	0	0	2
ALLEN	2	0	0	2
BEAUREGARD	3	0	2	5
CADDO	4	4	0	8
CALCASIEU	1	0	0	1
EAST BATON ROUGE	2	1	3	6
EAST FELICIANA	0	1	0	1
GRANT	2	0	0	2
JEFFERSON	12	2	3	17
LAFAYETTE	1	3	0	4
LAFOURCHE	1	0	0	1
LINCOLN	1	0	0	1
NATCHITOCHES	1	0	0	1
ORLEANS	6	10	1	17
POINTE COUPEE	2	0	0	2
RICHLAND	1	0	0	1
ST. BERNARD	4	0	1	5
ST. LANDRY	0	3	0	3
ST. MARY	0	0	1	1
ST. TAMMANY	2	0	1	3
TANGIPAHOA	1	0	0	1
VERMILION	2	0	0	2
VERNON	4	3	3	10
WEST BATON ROUGE	2	0	0	2
TOTAL	56	27	15	98

The following parishes did not report any cases of hepatitis in June or July, 1975: Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Bienville, Bossier, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Carroll, Evangeline, Franklin, Iberia, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, LaSalle, Livingston, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Plaquemines, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Martin, Tensas, Terrebonne, Union, Washington, Webster, West Carroll, West Feliciana, and Winn.



hours after the serving of the meal. The menu consisted of chicken salad sandwiches, ham sandwiches, meatballs, bridal cake, red velvet cake, jelly rolls, soft drinks, beer, fruit punch, and whiskey. Epidemiologic data were gathered from over 80% of the guests and revealed a significant correlation with the consumption of chicken salad sandwiches and illness. Cultures of the sandwiches were positive for Salmonella typhimurium. Cultures taken from 12 people who attended the reception but did not eat the chicken salad sandwiches were negative for salmonella; cultures taken from 18 people who did eat the sandwiches were all positive for S. typhimurium. Repeat cultures taken two weeks later from nine of these 18 people were negative for salmonella. None of the nine were treated with antibiotics as *"antibiotic treatment in uncomplicated Salmonella gastroenteritis is not recommended."*

Investigation into food preparation uncovered that the chicken salad sandwiches had been made by six people 13 hours before serving. None of the six people said they had been recently ill, but four of them were culture-positive for S. typhimurium. None of the six people were licensed to cater. The sandwiches, once made, were not refrigerated due to lack of appropriate equipment. Approximately 800 chicken salad sandwiches were made, and these sandwiches remained at room temperature until serving. Understandably the attack rate of illness in those that ate the sandwiches was high, 100%.

Nine people were hospitalized, one suffered severe dehydration; 85 others consulted physicians. The local health unit has taken measures to prevent further food catering services by these unlicensed individuals and is requesting to their community that only licensed caterers be hired.

(4) **SALMONELLA NEWPORT** in Vernon and Rapides Parishes: An epidemic of diarrheal disease occurring mostly among a pediatric population appeared during the first three weeks of August, 1975. During this time 40 cases were reported from the two military reservations in the area (Fort Polk Army Base and England Air Force Base). An investigation by the Epidemiology Unit with assistance from the Center for Disease Control could not uncover any related cases in the civilian population around Fort Polk but did find eight cases in the Alexandria area.

Epidemiologic investigation could not define a common source, but milk processed by a local dairy and distributed in one gallon plastic

containers was highly suspected. An investigation is now underway into the handling of milk by the dairy, but to date no evidence has been found to implicate the dairy.

Because the source of the epidemic remains unclear, and because diarrhea due to Salmonella newport may continue to occur in the Rapides and Vernon Parish area, physicians in this area are requested to culture all patients with diarrhea. These cultures should be sent to the Alexandria Regional Laboratory for processing. Any additional cases uncovered will be of great assistance to us in our effort to locate the source.

(5) **SALMONELLA SINGAPORE** in the New Orleans Area: As of September 11, 1975, ten cases of a diarrheal illness due to Salmonella singapore have been reported to the Epidemiology Unit. All cases live in the greater New Orleans area but are not localized to one particular section of this area. An investigation is currently in progress.

S. singapore is an extremely rare serotype (serogroup C<sub>1</sub>) and an outbreak due to this organism is of epidemiologic importance as well as of public health significance. Only four isolates were recorded in the United States for the two-year period, 1972-73. No isolates were recorded in Louisiana in 1974. Physicians in the New Orleans area are encouraged to culture all cases of diarrheal illness and asked to report to the Epidemiology Unit (using the confidential case reporting cards, available at any local health unit) any cases of salmonella disease.

(6) **IMMUNIZATION MANUAL:** The Communicable Disease Control Section of the Division of Health will soon publish a revised edition of the state's immunization manual. Any physician interested in obtaining a copy should send their request to the Epidemiology Unit, Division of Health, Room 615, State Office Building, 325 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, La. 70112.



# SELECTED REPORTABLE DISEASES

(By Place of Residence)

STATE AND PARISH TOTALS Reported Morbidity August, 1975	ASEPTIC MENINGITIS	DIPHTHERIA	ENCEPHALITIS	ENCEPHALITIS, POST INFECTION	HEPATITIS A AND UNSPECIFIED	HEPATITIS B	TUBERCULOSIS, PULMONARY	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS	PERTUSSIS	RABIES IN ANIMALS	RUBELLA*	SEVERE UNDERNUTRITION	SHIGELLOSIS	TYPHOID FEVER	OTHER SALMONELLOSIS	TETANUS	MEASLES	GONORRHEA	SYPHILIS, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
TOTAL TO DATE 1974	106	0	14	5	406	129	400	32	17	18	58	18	120	9	118	3	12	16786	428
TOTAL TO DATE 1975	117	0	23	10	370	124	344	30	40	3	286	12	95	4	110	4	1	14899	337
TOTAL THIS MONTH	16	0	5	0	49	18	40	4	17	0	0	1	8	0	25	1	0	1826	33
ACADIA	1																		5
ALLEN					1		1												5
ASCENSION																			4
ASSUMPTION																			1
AVOUELLES																			10
BEAUREGARD															1				7
BIENVILLE																			6
BOSSIER																			11
CADDO	2		1			1	2						1						149
CALCASIEU					2														97
CALDWELL							1												3
CAMERON																			
CATAHOULA																			2
CLAIBORNE																			5
CONCORDIA																			6
DESOTO																			5
EAST BATON ROUGE					4		1		2										38
EAST CARROLL																			11
EAST FELICIANA												1							3
EVANGELINE						1	1												1
FRANKLIN							1												5
GRANT					1														
IBERIA							2								1				8
IBERVILLE					1		3												8
JACKSON																			4
JEFFERSON	2				8	1	3	1	5						6				103
JEFFERSON DAVIS																			3
LAFAYETTE					1	1													28
LAFOURCHE															1				16
LASALLE																			1
LINCOLN					1														27
LIVINGSTON																			
MADISON																			14
MOREHOUSE																			24
NATCHITOCHES					1														13
ORLEANS	6		2		9	10	20	2	4				7		7				716
OUACHITA	3		2		3														91
PLAQUEMINES									2										4
POINTE COUPEE																			2
RAPIDES	1				1		3												86
RED RIVER																			3
RICHLAND					1														10
SABINE																			9
ST. BERNARD					3	1			1										3
ST. CHARLES																			7
ST. HELENA																			3
ST. JAMES					1														6
ST. JOHN									1										8
ST. LANDRY						2													16
ST. MARTIN						1										1			5
ST. MARY	1				1				2										15
ST. TAMMANY					3														16
TANGIPAHOA					2		1												17
TENSAS																			
TERREBONNE								1											7
UNION																			10
VERMILION					1														4
VERNON					3										9				111
WASHINGTON																			8
WEBSTER																			18
WEST BATON ROUGE					1														4
WEST CARROLL																			3
WEST FELICIANA							1												17
WINN																			3
OUT OF STATE																			1

\* Includes Rubella, Congenital Syphilis

From January 1 through August 31, 1975, the following cases were also reported: 2-Brucellosis; 1-Malaria (contracted outside the U.S.A.)