

# LOUISIANA MONTHLY MORBIDITY

DISEASES REPORTED DURING MONTH OF **JANUARY, 1968**

BY PARISH OF RESIDENCE

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MUMPS VACCINE

A live attenuated mumps virus vaccine has recently been licensed for general use. Unfortunately the question of when the vaccine should be used has not been answered. The recommendations of the Public Health Service Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices state that "the vaccine is not specifically contraindicated for younger children, but until more information on the duration of immunity is available, the vaccine is not recommended for routine use." The same report suggests that the vaccine "may be considered for use in children approaching puberty, in adolescents and in adults, especially males, if they have not had mumps." In considering the use of the vaccine in this age group, the physician must remember that the follow-up of immunized individuals is limited to about two years and therefore a loss of immunity and the need for reimmunization could occur. He should also remember that about 30 per cent of cases of naturally acquired mumps are subclinical and a child may have durable immunity without a history of parotitis. One way in which practicing physicians can help in defining the future use of the vaccine is through reporting of cases and complications to the local health unit. (Continued on Page 3.)

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS -

- LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RELEASED FEBRUARY 13, 1968	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 19 67	0	3	0	0	28	19	19	0	0	6	1	7	5	4	9	0	61	513	168
TOTAL TO DATE 19 68	0	5	1	0	42	1	21	0	0	4	0	5	5	0	6	0	54	579	207
TOTAL THIS MONTH	0	5	1	0	42	1	21	0	0	4	0	5	5	0	6	0	54	579	207
ACADIA																		2	
ALLEN																	2	1	
ASCENSION					1														4
ASSUMPTION																	1		
AVOUELLES					1		1										1		1
BEAUREGARD							1												
BIENVILLE																			
BOSSIER					1					1								6	6
CADDO					1		2						1				4	111	39
CALCASIEU					2		2								2		1	22	5
CALDWELL																			3
CAMERON					1														
CATAHOULA																			
CLAIBORNE					1														1
CONCORDIA																		1	
DESOTO					1												1	2	1
EAST BATON ROUGE													1				5	7	16
EAST CARROLL																	1		
EAST FELICIANA																			5
EVANGELINE							1											1	
FRANKLIN					6														
GRANT					1													1	2
IBERIA					1		2										1	4	3
IBERVILLE					1													2	2

Louisiana Department

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## - LOUISIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RELEASED  
FEBRUARY 13, 1968

	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
JACKSON									1										
JEFFERSON					2	1	1					1			1		4	37	11
JEFFERSON DAVIS															1			6	3
LAFAYETTE					2		1											6	1
LAFORCHE					1												1	7	
LASALLE																			
LINCOLN																		4	4
LIVINGSTON							1											1	1
MADISON																			1
MOREHOUSE																		3	4
NATCHITOCHE																		1	2
ORLEANS		4			6		2								1		23	239	46
OUACHITA					3												2	40	8
PLAQUEMINES																			
POINTE COUPEE																			1
RAPIDES																		15	3
RED RIVER																			
RICHLAND																	1		
SABINE																			
ST. BERNARD																			2
ST. CHARLES					1										1				1
ST. HELENA																			
ST. JAMES																			1
ST. JOHN					1													1	1
ST. LANDRY					1												1	13	4
ST. MARTIN					1													4	
ST. MARY							2											3	2
ST. TAMMANY			1									3						19	1
TANGIPAOHA													3				2	7	1
TENSAS																	1		
TERREBONNE							4											1	
UNION					3													1	
VERMILION		1			1												1		
VERNON					2													3	2
WASHINGTON																		1	
WEBSTER							1		2									1	3
WEST BATON ROUGE																		2	2
WEST CARROLL																			1
WEST FELICIANA												1						3	13
WINN																		1	
OUT OF STATE																			

From Jan. 1 through Jan. 31 of 1968, the following cases were also reported:  
3 Malaria (Contracted outside U.S.A.)

### TEST FOR RUBELLA (GERMAN MEASLES) AVAILABLE

A new test for rubella (German Measles) is now available at the Louisiana State Department of Health Laboratory. This is a hemagglutination inhibition test (HI) which was developed at the National Institute of Health and can be used for determining the status of rubella immunity or for diagnosing acute cases. If an acute serum specimen is collected at the onset of rash and a convalescent specimen about 2 - 3 weeks later, a fourfold rise in antibody will confirm the diagnosis. Studies have demonstrated that young adults retain detectable levels of HI antibody many years after exposure, providing an indication of immunity. Specimens should be submitted through the local health unit. The availability of this test is particularly important because of the development of an attenuated rubella virus vaccine. Reports of the vaccine are very encouraging and it may be available in the near future. As in the case of mumps the health department does request that physicians report cases of rubella to their local health units. This is the only way that the use of the test can be justified and it will provide a baseline of epidemiological data to direct future control activities.

### INSTITUTIONAL HEPATITIS - ORLEANS PARISH

In November, 1967, the New Orleans City Health Department was notified by the medical officer at the Orleans Parish Prison that an unusually large number of hepatitis cases were occurring in the prison. At the request of the medical officer, personnel from the City Health Department gave gamma globulin to approximately 200 inmates and staff on November 20, 1967. Following this an investigation was conducted to define the extent of the epidemic and to see if a common source was involved.

The county-level prison facility holds 700 to 800 inmates, predominately Negro males with an average age of 25. One-third of the prison population is sentenced to the prison, while the remaining two-thirds are waiting to go to court. Medical records were not available at the prison but information concerning cases of hepatitis was provided by the prison physician, an inmate who assisted in the infirmary, and by a member of the staff. Eleven inmates in prison at the time of the investigation who had been ill during 1967 with symptoms compatible with hepatitis were interviewed. Additional cases were found by cross checking the reported cases of hepatitis from Orleans Parish against prison records.

A total of forty prison-associated cases of hepatitis were found, thirty-two of which had been reported to the State Health Department. The epidemic curve appeared to peak in August and September. When all forty cases were evaluated by excluding from consideration those individuals who acquired hepatitis earlier than ten days after entry into the prison or later than 160 days after discharge from the prison, only twenty-two cases remained. These were distributed throughout the year. Seven of them were associated with drug use or tattooing. Because of the frequent cell changes by individual prisoners, all cases had possible contacts. Therefore, it appeared that hepatitis is endemic in the prison with an average of 1 - 2 cases per month. The apparent peak in August and September was related to several cases occurring among drug users and prisoners who tattooed themselves.