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Epidemiologic Notes and Reports

Rubella - Hawaii

Ten cases of rubella occurred in the period March 18-July 25, 1976, in tourists from Japan visiting Hawaii. None of the patients — 6 females and 4 males, ranging in age from 6 to 42 — had been vaccinated. One additional secondary case occurred in a 26-year-old male Hawaii resident. Details of the first 4 cases follow.

Two 17-year-old female Japanese exchange students became ill with fever, rash, and postcervical lymphadenopathy within 24 hours of arrival in Hawaii. Single convalescent titers obtained 6 days after the onset of rash were 1:40 and 1:640, respectively. IgM levels indicated recent infection in both patients. Blood tests showed that 10 of the students' 14 female traveling companions (71%) were susceptible to rubella.

The third patient was a 31-year-old airline stewardess, who developed clinical rubella 2 weeks after an extensive tour of duty in Japan and Guam. Acute and convalescent sera showed a greater than 4-fold rise in rubella antibody. The fourth patient, a 24-year-old school teacher who had been teaching in Japan for 9 months, developed fever and rash upon arrival in Honolulu. She had a greater than 4-fold rise in rubella antibody.

The Hawaii Department of Health immediately immunized family and other contacts of all cases. Only 1 secondary case occurred, despite an estimated 50% susceptibility rate among family and contacts. Because the susceptibility of the adult female population in Hawaii is marked-

ly higher than on the U.S. mainland, the Hawaii Department of Health has advised the airline and tourist industries to recommend rubella immunization for employees having contact with the public. Over 2,200 workers from those industries have undergone serologic testing for rubella antibody. Of this number, 1,803 have been immunized.

Reported by C Ibara, BS, N Wiebenga, MD, State Epidemiologist, Hawaii Dept of Health: Field Services Div, and Quarantine Div, Bureau of Epidemiology, CDC.

Editorial Note: These cases demonstrate the value of careful surveillance for rash illnesses. Rubella presents a unique problem in Hawaii. Prior to vaccine availability, susceptibility levels in all age groups were markedly higher than in the continental United States. An excellent program of vaccination, begun in 1969, as well as strict enforcement of a school entry law requiring rubella (and other) vaccines, and intensive surveillance activities have effected excellent control of rubella - 64 reported cases in 1974 and 39 in 1975. Nevertheless, the susceptibility rates in persons past the age of puberty in or since 1969, the time of vaccine availability, still remains high. Although more than 95% of school-aged children are immunized, recent serologic surveys show that approximately 50% of adults native to Hawaii have no demonstrable antibodies to rubella.

Penicillinase-producing Neisseria gonorrhoeae

The Bureau of Laboratories, CDC, has identified 2 penicillinase-producing isolates of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, obtained from a patient in Maryland and a patient in California, who were first seen in February and April 1976, respectively. Both remained symptomatic after receiving 4.8 million units of aqueous procaine penicillin G with 1 gram of probenecid and were treated with a variety of regimens before responding to spectinomycin. Further epidemiologic and clinical data are being obtained.

Reported by WA Ashford, Col. RN Lucas, and Col. MB Miller, David Grant Medical Center, Travis Air Force Base, California; J Chin, MD, State Epidemiologist, California State Dept of Health; WJ Marek, MD, St. Mary's County, and KH Acree, MDCM, State Epidemiologist, Maryland State Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene; Bur of Laboratories and Bur of State Services, CDC.

Editorial Note: This appears to be the first time that penicillinase-producing gonococci have been isolated from patients, and a search for additional cases is being undertaken. CDC recommends that all patients with gonorrhea be cultured 7 to 14 days after completion of treatment to confirm cure. Patients with a positive culture should be re-treated with 2 grams of spectinomycin intramuscularly. If prior arrangements have been made, gonococcal isolates for penicillinase testing may be sent to the Bureau of Laboratories, CDC, through state health department laboratories.

St. Louis Encephalitis — United States

The first reported outbreak of St. Louis Encephalitis in the United States in 1976 has occurred in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, As of August 20, the county reported 2 confirmed and 8 presumptive cases with onset of illness between July 15 and August 1.* Clinically, 9 of the 10 patients had encephalitis; the youngest had aseptic meningitis. The patients ranged in age from 14 to 85, with a median age of 62. Eight resided in a 2-square mile, lower socioeconomic section of southwestern Tuscaloosa city. The other 2 cases lived about 4 and 5 miles, respectively, outside the city. Over 30 suspect cases remain under investigation.

Beginning in late July, the city of Tuscaloosa, with the recommendation of the West Alabama District Health Department, intensified vector control activities, By August 18, almost no adult vector mosquitoes were being found in the primarily affected area of the city.

As of August 20, the Alabama State Department of Health reported to CDC 1 confirmed and 1 presumptive case of St. Louis Encephalitis outside of Tuscaloosa County. Cases were also reported from California (1 confirmed), Illinois (1 confirmed), Louisiana (1 presumptive), Mississippi (4 confirmed, 5 presumptive), Ohio (1 confirmed, 1 presumptive), Tennessee (2 confirmed), and Texas (4 confirmed, 6 presumptive).

Reported by C Konigsberg, MD, MPH, Colonel G Taft, MSSE, West Alabama District Heelth Dept; B Helton, RN, V Johnson, FS Wolf, MD, State Epidemiologist, Alabama State Dept of Heelth; Medical Entomology Br, Vector Biology and Control Div, Bur of Tropical Diseases, Field Surveillance Br, Field Services Div, and Enteric and Neurotropic Viral Diseases Br., Viral Diseases Div., Bur of Epidemiology, CDC.

Table I. Summary-Cases of Specified Notifiable Diseases: United States

[Cumulative totals include revised and deleved reports through previous weeks]

| DIREARE | | 33rd WE | EK ENDING | | | CUMULATIVE, FIRST 33 WEEKS | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----|---|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| | DISEASE | August 21, 1876 | August 15, 1975 | | MEDIAN 1971-1975 | August 21, 1976 | August 16, 1976 | MEDIAN 1971-197 | | |
| Acoptic meningitis | | 113 | 134 | | 135 | 1,496 | 1,793 | 1,742 | | |
| | | 4 | 3 | | 4 | 160 | 147 | 113 | | |
| ~ | | 300 | 344 | | | 146,082 | 115,944 | | | |
| | | 2 | 4 1 4 | | 2 | 123 | 200 | 118 | | |
| | § Primery | 25 | 66 | | 44 | 545 | 583 | 576 | | |
| Encephalitis | Post-Infectious | 6 | 9 | | 5 | 191 | 219 | 198 | | |
| | (Type B | 328 | 225 | | 184 | 9,284 | 7,238 | 5,843 | | |
| Hepatitis, Viral | Type A | 640 | 614 | - t | 894 | 21,797 | 22,193 | 31,983 | | |
| | Type unspecified | 161 | 112 | - 5 | • | 5,579 | 5.114 | , 5.000 | | |
| Malaria | | 10 | 6 | | 6 | 269 | 251 | 25-1 | | |
| Meades (rubeole) | | 141 | 157 | | 131 | 34,011 | 20,977 | 23,787 | | |
| | efections, total | 25 | 12 | | 12 | 1,123 | 1,003 | 998 | | |
| | | 25 | 10 | | 12 | 1,114 | 980 | 973 | | |
| Military | | - | 2 | | - | 9 | 23 | 25 | | |
| | | 127 | 30 2 | | 371 | 31,932 | 45,887 | 54,298 | | |
| Pertussis | | 25 | 78 | | | 609 | 924 | | | |
| Rubelia (Germen | moesies) | 49 | 73 | | 117 | 10,480 | 14,606 | 20,240 | | |
| Tetenus | | 2 | 2 | | 3 | 35 | 51 | 58 | | |
| | | 633 | 671 | | | 21,302 | 21,092 | | | |
| Tuleremia | | 5 | 3 | | 3 | 86 | 83 | 91 | | |
| Typhoid fever | | 11 | 9 | | 6 | 236 | 197 | 203 | | |
| Typhus, tick-bori Veneraal Disease: | ne (Rky, Mt, spotted fever) s: | 42 | 22 | | 26 | 609 | 580 | 466 | | |
| Consulter | Civilian | 21.409 | 20,389 | | | 628,575 | 614,842 | | | |
| Gonorrhee | Military | 588 | 86 8 | | | 18,839 | 19,226 | | | |
| Sumbilia seim | ery and secondary (Civilian | 505 | 505 | | | 15,307 | 16,243 | | | |
| ashulls, brius | ery and secondary (Military | 6 | 4 | | | 223 | 232 | | | |
| Rebies in enimels | • | 59 | 46 | | 73 | 1,745 | 1,607 | 2,376 | | |

Table II. Notifiable Diseases of Low Frequency: United States

| The second secon | CUM. | | CUM |
|--|----------------------|---|--------------------|
| Anthrax: Botulism: Congenital rubelle syndrome: Leprosy: Tex. 1, Cel. 3 Leptospirosis: Nev. 1. | 19 15 91 27 | Poliomyelitis, total: Paralytic: Paittaeosis: Rebies in men: Triehinosis: Typhus, murine:Tex. 3 | 7 30 1 66 |

^{*}A confirmed case has a 4-fold change in serum antibody titers to St. Louis Encephalitis virus. A presumptive case has a complement fixing antibody titer > 1:16 and/or a hemagglutination inhibition antibody titer > 1:80.

MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT

Table III Cases of Specified Notifiable Diseases: United States

Weeks Ending August 21, 1976 and August 16, 1975 - 33rd Week ENCEPHALITIS HEPATITIS VIRAL ASEPTIC BRUCEL CHICKEN-DIPHTHERIA MALARIA Primary: Arthropod-borne and Unspecified Type MENIN Post In-LOSIS POX Type 8 Type A GITIS fectious AREA REPORTING CUM. CUM UNITED STATES NEW ENGLAND _ Vermont Messachusetts _ Rhode Island Connecticut MIDDLE ATLANTIC Upstate New York New York City Pennsylvania EAST NORTH CENTRAL .. ī ī Indiana Illinais Michigan Wisconsin WEST NORTH CENTRAL . . a Minnesota lown Missauri * North Dakota South Dakota Nobraska Kenses SOUTH ATLANTIC District of Columbia ...
Virginia*.... West Virginie *..... NN North Carolina South Carolina Georgia Florida EAST SOUTH CENTRAL .. Kentucky NN Mississippi WEST SOUTH CENTRAL ... Arkenses NN Texas MOUNTAIN Montana Idaho Wyoming Colorado New Mexico Arizona NN Neveds PACIFIC Washington Oragon California Alaska Haveii

NN: Not Notifiable

^{*}Delayed Reports: Asep. Men.: New Jers. add 1, Mo. add 1; Chickenpox: Guam add 2; Enceph.: N. Carol. delete 1, Ala. add 3; Hep. 8: New Hamp. add 1; Hep. A: New Hamp. delete 1, N. Carol. delete 2, Guam add 1; Hap. Unsp.: Va. delete 2, Guam add 2; Malaria: W. Va. add 2, Okla. add 1.

MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT

Table III-Continued Cases of Specified Notifiable Diseases: United States Weeks Ending August 21, 1976 and August 16, 1975 — 33rd Week

| | A | IEABLES (Rub | ea in) | MENING | TOTAL | NFECTIONS | M | UMPO | PERTUSSIS | RUBELLA | | TETANI | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------|-----------------|-----------|------|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--------|--|
| REPORTING AREA | 1878 CUMULATIVE | | | | 1976 CUMULATIVE | | | 1878 CUML | | 1878 CUML | | CUM | |
| | 1878 | 1978 | 1876 | 1978 | 1976 | 1078 | 1076 | 1878 | 1976 | 1878 | 1076 | 1970 | |
| UNITED STATES | 141 | 34,011 | 20,977 | 25 | 1,123 | 1,003 | 127 | 31,932 | 25 | 49 | 10,480 | 15 | |
| EW ENGLAND | 3 | 379 | 305 | 3 | 49 | 50 | 4 | 1,261 | 11111 | 3 | 272 | 1 | |
| Meine | 1 | 11 | 14 22 | - | 1 | 6 2 | - | 114 | - | | 11 | : | |
| New Hampshirs *, | 2 | 36 | 49 | | 3 | - 1 | | 23 | 3.34 | | · i | | |
| Massachusetts | = | 37 | 110 | 1 | 13 | 20 | - | 149 | 1.444 | | 135 | 1 | |
| Rhode Island | - | 14 | 3 | - | 5 | 3 | | 445 | Taglia I | - | 5 | - | |
| Connecticut | - | 274 | 107 | 2 | 23 | 27 | 4 | 520 | • | 3 | 117 | - | |
| IDDLE ATLANTIC | 35 | 6,954 | 1.737 | 2 | 152 | 101 | 15 | 2,974 | 4 | 1 | 2,247 | 3 | |
| Upstata New York | 19 | 2.921 | 571 | - | 61 | 20 | 2 | 369 | 1 | • | 599 | 2 | |
| New York City | 3 | 448 | 135 | 2 | 40 19 | 29 17 | 7 | 1,577 | 2 | - | 150 | - : | |
| New Jersey | 13 | 591 2,994 | 457 574 | - | 32 | 27 | 1 5 | 492 536 | ī | ī | 1,334 | ī | |
| Tenneyivana | | | | | | | | | | _ | | | |
| AST NORTH CENTRAL | 43 | 14,391 | 6,226 | 7 | 172 | 136 | 34 | 13,233 | 2 | 14 | 3,897 | 2 | |
| Ohio | 1 9 | 566 3,259 | 106 364 | 6 | 91 | 35 | 5 | 1.890 | 2 | 1 | 276 696 | 1 | |
| Illinois | 6 | 1.521 | 1,760 | 1 | 17 | 19 | 4 | 1,745 | 50.00 | 2 | 1,160 | | |
| Michigan • | 17 | 5,709 | 2,999 | - | 49 | 50 | 5 | 4,010 | | 7 | 1,361 | 1 | |
| Wisconsin | 10 | 3,336 | 997 | - | 9 | 10 | 20 | 3,352 | T. I. | 4 | 404 | - | |
| EST NORTH CENTRAL | 4 | 1,100 | 4,961 | 2 | 68 | 61 | | 3,242 | 41 - 4 | 2 | 385 | | |
| Minneota | 2 | 390 | 182 | | 12 | 15 | ĭ | 544 | + 1111- | | 26 | ī | |
| lows | - | 33 | 570 | : | 9 | . 5 | 7 | 1,147 | • | | 84 | | |
| Missouri | - : | 17 | 265 1.048 | 1 | 25 3 | 30 | 6 | 315 121 | | 1 | 32 | 2 | |
| South Dakota | _ | 4 | 356 | - | ĩ | 1 | | 7 | eria jul | - i | 19 | | |
| Nebreake | - | 55 | 395 | 1 | - 5 | 2 | - | 91 | - | - | 3 | - | |
| Kansas | 2 | 598 | 2,145 | - | 13 | • | 1 | 1,009 | - | - | 218 | 1 | |
| OUTH ATLANTIC | 7 | 2,245 | 317 | 3 | 201 | 203 | 15 | 2,424 | motifie : | 5 | 1.267 | 7 | |
| Delaware | - | 128 | 35 | - | - 6 | 6 | 2 | 52 | 1 196 | _ | 33 | - | |
| Maryland | - | 829 | 48 | - | 16 | 24 | 6 | 658 | • | - 1 | . 3 | 2 | |
| District of Columbia Virginia | 7 | 12 754 | 1 36 | 1 | 2 25 | 17 | | 100 197 | | - 1 | 45 234 | ī | |
| West Virginia | Ė | 103 | 140 | - | 6 | 5 | 2 | 740 | Lagren | i i | 283 | 187 | |
| North Carolina | - | 15 | 2 | - | 37 | 36 | • | 371 | | - | 17 | | |
| South Carolina | - | 4 2 | 30 | - | 36 19 | 33 10 | - : | 39 | 2011 | | 590 | 9 | |
| Georgia | | 318 | 25 | 2 | 54 | 67 | ī | 267 | | | 60 | 4 | |
| AST SOUTH CENTRAL | 5 | 812 | 271 | 3 | 101 | 150 | 12 | 2,721 | | 46.4 | 348 | 7 | |
| Kantucky | 5 | 746 | 83 | 1 | 18 | 61 | 5 | 952 | 4-445 | i | 155 | 2 | |
| Tannessee | - | 50 | 177 | 1 | 43 | 47 | 4 | 1,457 | | 3 | 181 | 4 | |
| Alabama | - | 16 | 3 | 2 | 29 11 | 29 13 | 3 | 259 53 | | - : | 11 | 1 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | _ | ••• | | |
| EST SOUTH CENTRAL | | 685 | 200 | 2 | 174 | 161 | 16 | 2,248 | • | 11 | 513 | 7 | |
| Arkanes | 7 | 194 | | - | = 11 - 34 | 28 | 1 | 72 22 | | - : | 190 | - 2 | |
| Oklehome | _ | 289 | 125 | - | 10 | - • | 5 | 639 | 1 | 3 | 63 | | |
| Texas | 1 | 202 | 163 | 1 | 111 | 116 | 10 | 1,515 | 4.2 | | 175 | 5 | |
| OUNTAIN | 2 | 5,064 | 1,397 | 2 | 39 | 34 | 1 | 1.098 | N | 237 | 469 | 1 | |
| Montana | 1 | 203 | 50 | _ | 34 | 7 | | 20 | | | 234 | - 1 | |
| Ideha | - | 2,020 | - 11 | - | = 4 | 5 | - | 440 | - T-1 | - | 18 | 3 | |
| Wyoming | - | 3 | 1 | - | | - | : | 1 | . H- | - | 2 | - | |
| Coloredo | = | 305 15 | 1,156 | ī | - 11 - 4 | 7 | 1 | 221 127 | | 6 | 22 31 | | |
| Arizona | - | 226 | 71 | î | 10 | 1 | - | - | | - | | 1 | |
| Utah | 1 | 2,229 | 66 | - | 4 | 7 | - | 175 | - | | 143 | | |
| Nevede | | 63 | 27 | - | 2 | 1 | - | 114 | • | - | 19 | - | |
| CIFIC | 34 | 2,301 | 5,475 | 1 | 167 | 99 | 22 | 2,731 | 4 | 9 | 1,062 | 2 | |
| Washington | 2 | 336 | 285 | - | 28 | 16 | 1 | 64.8 | 3-75 | - | 162 | - | |
| Oregon | 1 31 | 152 1,886 | 196 4,930 | 1 | 15 104 | 75 | 19 | 343 1,493 | | | 134 747 | 1 | |
| Aleske | | 4 | | | 17 | 3 | 17 | 21 | | | 'i | | |
| Hawaii | - | 3 | 64 | - | 3 | 1 | - | 26 | Add. | 1 | 10 | - | |
| mm | | =13 | | | | | | | 4.0 | | 1 | | |
| erto Rico | 7 | 12 334 | 31 584 | = | 1 3 | 2 | 9 | 13 640 | 2 | | 5 | - 7 | |
| rgin Islands | _ | 9 | 8 | _ | | - | _ | 22 | 1,04 | - | | ī | |

^{*}Dalayed Reports: Measles: N. Hamp. deleta 2, Mich. add 118, Minn. add 23; Mening. Inf.: Ohio deleta 33.

MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT

Table III-Continued

Cases of Specified Notifieble Diseases: United States
Weeks Ending August 21, 1976 and August 16, 1975 — 33rd Week

| | CHARGO I OLA I ITAGE | | | | | TYPHUS-FEVER VENEREAL DISEASES (Civilian Come Only) | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|--|------|--------------|---|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------------------|----------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| | TUBERCULOSIS | | REMIA | | FEVER | TICK-BORNE (RMSP) | | | GONORRHEA | SYPHILIS (Pri. & Sec.) | | | ANIMAL | |
| REPORTING AREA | <u> </u> | | | | | /(1)(0) | | E492 - | CUMUL | ATIVE | + - | | ULATIVE | |
| | 1976 | CUM. 1976 | 1978 | 1878 | CUM. 1878 | 1976 | CUM. 1976 | 1976 | | | 1878 | | | CUML |
| | | 1870 | 1070 | | 1070 | | 1 10/0 | | 1876 | 1878 | | 1976 | 1976 | 1876 |
| UNITED STATES | 633 | 21,302 | 86 | 11 | 236 | 42 | 609 | 21,409 | 628,575 | 614,842 | 505 | 15,307 | 16,243 | 1,745 |
| NEW ENGLAND | 22 | 763 | 1 | 1 | 19 | - | 7 | 552 | 17,417 | 16,831 | 33 | 500 | 564 | 32 |
| Meine | 3 | 51 | - | - | - | • | - | 56 | 1,461 | 1,276 | - | 13 | 20 | 17 |
| New Hampshire | 3 | 33 21 | | | 2 | = | - | 17 | 479 429 | 466 410 | ī | 8 | 11 | |
| Vermont | 11 | 459 | 1 | _ | 13 | _ | 4 | 155 | 8.366 | 7.838 | 28 | 360 | 360 | 12 |
| Rhode Island | 2 | 55 | | _ | - | - | 2 | 68 | 1,142 | 1,361 | | 16 | 12 | ï |
| Connecticut | 3 | 144 | - | 1 | 4 | - | 1 | 239 | 5,540 | 5,480 | 4 | 97 | 156 | 2 |
| MIDDLE ATLANTIC | 107 | 4,054 | 3 | 4 | 41 | 2 | 33 | 3,626 | 73,757 | 71,932 | 97 | 2,564 | 2,978 | 24 |
| Upstate New York | 16 | 627 | 2 | 3 | 8 | - | 19 | 495 | 11,380 | 12,731 | 6 | 155 | 279 | 7 |
| New York City | 37 | 1,668 | 1 | 1, | 20 | ī | 3 | 1,576 | 33,514 | 31,099 | 61 | 1,575 | 1,700 | |
| New Jermy | 36 18 | 786 973 | | _ | 8 5 | i | 3 | 627 930 | 11,191 17,672 | 9,998 18,104 | 10 20 | 387 447 | 469 530 | 14 |
| 2 | | | | | | | | rgili hizu | | | Figure | | | • |
| EAST NORTH CENTRAL | 81 19 | 2,978 566 | 1 | 3 | 23 | 1 | 11 | 2,847 760 | 99,588 24,759 | 100,644 | 20 | 1,360 | 1,334 | 109 |
| Ohio | 19 | 353 | | - | - | - | | 138 | 9,735 | 27,824 8,801 | 11 | 317 74 | 307 99 | 12 20 |
| Illinols | 24 | 1,011 | 1 | 1- | 5 | - | - | 863 | 34,657 | 34,919 | 4 | 742 | 649 | 10 |
| Michigen | 24 | 876 | - | - | 8 | • | 2 | 802 | 20,986 | 19,482 | 3 | 156 | 219 | 5 |
| Wisconsin | 8 | 172 | ٠. | •8 | 1 | - | - 7 | 284 | 9,451 | 9,618 | - | 71 | 60 | 54 |
| WEST NORTH CENTRAL | 32 | 787 | 20 | - | 11 | 2 | 16 | 1,068 | 32,402 | 30,371 | 14 | 273 | 405 | 446 |
| Minnesots | . 6 | 141 | 3 | - | 6 | - | - | 181 | 5,896 | 6,322 | 3 | 63 | 73 | 100 |
| lown | . 3 | 69 | . 1 | - | 1 | . 1 | 2 7 | 166 | 4,101 | 4,321 | 3 | 29 | 23 | 93 |
| Missouri | 10 | 390 23 | 14 | - | 3 | - | | 376 16 | 12,647 481 | 10,908 | 2 | 110 | 195 | 45 |
| North Dakota | í | 35 | 1 | _ | - | | 2 | 35 | 921 | 1.190 | _ | 4 | 5 | 86 55 |
| Nebraska | 1 | 37 | - | - | - | - | - | 136 | 2,822 | 2,689 | 4 | 22 | 13 | 12 |
| Kanses * | 6 | 92 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 5 | 158 | 5,334 | 4,467 | 2 | 45 | 91 | 55 |
| SOUTH ATLANTIC | 121 | 4,603 | 6 | 2 | 31 | 23 | 308 | 5,373 | 151,754. | 152,775 | 161 | 4,487 | 5,080 | 277 |
| Delewere* | 2 | 51 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 35 | 2.037 | 2,156 | 1 | 45 | 65 | 13 |
| Maryland | 16 | 657 | 1 - | - | - | = | 17 | 476 322 | 20,256 | 17,960 | 11 | 376 | 375 | 11 |
| District of Columbia | 7 | 194 743 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 71 | 741 | 9,000 15,929 | 9,038 15,186 | 14 | 400 431 | 436 387 | 44 |
| West Virginia | 2 | 184 | = | - | 3 | - | 6 | 90 | 1,998 | 1,895 | | 19 | 36 | ii |
| North Carolina • | 26 | 833 | 3 | - | 1 | 10 | 135 | 470 | 22,297 | 21,530 | 25 | 832 | 631 | 6 |
| South Caroline* | 8 32 | 335 571 | | 1 | 4 2 | 5 | 39 38 | 965 565 | 14,476 | 14,358 | 19 | 249 | 345 | 3 |
| Georgia | 25 | 1,035 | 14- | - | 17 | - | 1 | 1,709 | 28,106 37,655 | 28,419 42,233 | 16 | 486 1,649 | 657 2,148 | 132 57 |
| EAST SOUTH CENTRAL | 82 | 1,783 | 13 | | 9 | 10 | 115 | 1.882 | 55.846 | 52.175 | 13 | 616 | 704 | |
| Kentucky* | 13 | 373 | 13 | _ | 5 | 1 | 26 | 301 | 7,126 | 6,817 | 5 | 90 | 706 110 | 89 46 |
| Tennessee | 30 | 551 | 12 | - | 4 | 4 | 68 | 551 | 22,194 | 20,725 | 3 | 217 | 268 | 31 |
| Alabama | 18 | 528 | - | - | - | 4 | | 695 | 15,880 | 14,355 | 3 | 130 | 162 | 12 |
| Mississip pl | 21 | 331 | - | | | | 13 | 335 | 10,646 | 10,278 | 2 | 179 | 166 | - |
| WEST SOUTH CENTRAL | 85 | 2,426 | 30 | - | 10 | 4 | 111 | 1,980 | 81,236 | 75,226 | 53 | 1,811 | 1,380 | 411 |
| Arkansas | 8 | 310 | 15 | - | 2 | - | 16 | 168 329 | 7,567 | 7,702 | 2 | 59 | 41 | 102 |
| Okishome | 26 A | 353 223 | 2 | - | 2 | 2 | 84 | 215 | 11,898 7,653 | 14.024 | 8 | 386 | 324 | 100 |
| Texas | 45 | 1,540 | 6 | - | 5 | 2 | • | 1,268 | 54,118 | 46,273 | 43 | 1,297 | 966 | 205 |
| | | | | | | _ | 3 | | | | 12.0 | | 1 | |
| MOUNTAIN | 17 | 591 35 | 2 2 | - | 18 | | 3 | 785 40 | 24,162 1,268 | 24,042 1,289 | 27 | 517 6 | 375 | 96 |
| Ideho | _ | 18 | | _ | - 1 | | 1 | 47 | 1,295 | 1,197 | _ | 24 | 9 | 62 |
| Wyoming | 3 | 16 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 473 | 560 | - | 8 | 9 | 1 |
| Colorado | - | 96 | - | - | • | - | 1 | 257 | 6,299 | 5,929 | 2 | 109 | 67 | 4 |
| New Mexico | 1 | 105 274 | | - | 1 9 | _ | 1 | 138 241 | 4,746 7,099 | 4,397 6,580 | 21 | 175 152 | 102 136 | 3 |
| Utah | | 24 | _ | - | í | _ | - | 56 | 1,266 | 1,543 | | 17 | 11 | 20 |
| Neveda* | 137 | 23 | - | - | - 1 | - | - | 3 | 1,716 | 2,547 | - | 26 | 37 | - |
| PACIFIC | 86 | 3.317 | 10 | 1 | 74 | _ | 5 | 3,296 | 92,413 | 90,846 | 87 | 3,179 | 3.421 | 261 |
| Washington | - | 263 | 2 | - | 3 | - | 4 | 247 | 7,732 | 8,262 | - | 79 | 118 | 4 |
| Oregon | 7 | 123 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 205 | 6,816 | 6,819 | 3 | 66 | 88 | 5 |
| California | 72 | 2,465 | 7 | 1 | 69 | - | l l | 2,697 | 73,479 | 71,926 | 81 | 2,951 | 3,179 | 212 |
| Heweli | 7 | 61 405 | | - | 2 | | = | 108 | 2,646 1,740 | 2,237 1,602 | 3 | 12 71 | 32 | 40 |
| Transfer of | 1 | PEF | E. | 17 | _ | | | The | | | 2+9-1 | | 1981 | P90. 1 |
| Gmm* | - | 30 | - | - | - | - | | - | 202 | 274 | | 1 | | _ |
| Puerto Rico | 27 | 259 | | - | 1 | - | - | 101 | 1,834 | 1,851 | 13 | 375 | 452 | 28 |
| Virgin Islands | - | 5 | - | - | - | - | | - | 162 | 114 | - | 45 | 22 | - |

*Delayed Reports: TB: Kans. delete 3, Dele. delete 1, N. Carol. delete 2, S. Carol. delete 1, Ky. delete 1; GC, civ.: S. Dek. delete 1, Nev. add 12, Guam add 6; GC, Mill.: Nev. add 11; Rables in Animals: Ariz. add 1.

Table IV Deaths in 121 United States Cities* Week Ending August 14, 1976 - 32nd Week

| t was too | | A | LL CAUS | ES | | Pneu- monia | W. 1-6 | ALL CAUSES | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----|--|
| REPORTING AREA | ALL AGES | | | Under 1 Year | and Influenza ALL AGES | REPORTING AREA | ALL AGES | 65 Years and Over | | 28-44 Years | Under 1 Year | mon influe ALI AGE | | |
| EW ENGLAND | 589 | 360 | 168 | 21 | 20 | 36 | SOUTH ATLANTIC | 1,160 | 662 58 | 322 | 83 15 | 53 | 4 | |
| Boston, Mess | 168 | 104 | 50 16 | 1 | 8 1 | 4 | Atlanta, Ga | 117 250 | 134 | 75 | 20 | | | |
| Bridgeport, Conn. | 18 | 21 10 | . 6 | | i | 4 | Beltimore, Md | 58 | 27 | 17 | - 6 | 5 | | |
| Cambridge, Mass | 18 | 16 | 2 | - | | - | Charlotte, N. C Jacksonville, Fla | 97 | 62 | 24 | 3 | 4 | | |
| Fall River, Mass. | 56 | 33 | 17 | 4 | 1 | _ | Miami, Fla. | 136 | 86 | 40 | 5 | 2 | | |
| Hartford, Conn. | 21 | 16 | 4 | _ | - | 2 | Norfolk, Va | 56 | 35 | 11 | 6 | 4 | | |
| Lynn, Mass. | 16 | 12 | 4 | - | - | - | Richmond, Vo | 76 | 40 | 26 | 4 | 2 | | |
| New Bedford, Mass | 25 | 16 | 6 | 1 | - | 1 | Sevennah, Ga | 33 | 19 | 11 | 2 | . 1 | | |
| New Haven, Conn | 45 | 20 | 11 | 5 | 5 | - | St. Petersburg, Fla | 82 | 66 | 10 | 1 | 5 | | |
| Providence, R.I. | 49 | 28 | 15 | 1 | 3 | 9 | Tampa, Fla | 61 | 33 | 19 | 3 | 2 | | |
| Somerville, Mass | 6 | 2 | 3 | - | • | - | Washington, D. C. | 150 | 75 | 46 | 14 | 12 | | |
| Springfield, Mass | 40 | 29 | 9 | 1 | | 1 | Wilmington, Del | 42 | 27 | 10 | • | 1 | | |
| Waterbury, Conn | 35 | 21 | 10 | 1 | : | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| Worcester, Mass | 52 | 32 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 3 | | 676 | 363 | 207 | 45 | 22 | 3 | |
| | | | | | | | EAST SOUTH CENTRAL | 108 | 46 | 43 | 77 | 6 | W. | |
| IDDLE ATLANTIC | 2.442 | 1 - 400 | 707 | 185 | 74 | 109 | Birmingham, Ala | 55 | 38 | 14 | ż | | | |
| DDLE ATLANTIC | 2,662 | 25 | 15 | 2 | 77 | 107 | Chattanooga, Tenn | 34 | 22 | 10 | i | N | | |
| Albany, N. Y | 37 | 26 | 9 | 1 | i | 3 | Knoxville, Tenn Louisville, Ky | 127 | 60 | 44 | 10 | 6 | - 1 | |
| Buffalo, N. Y. | 102 | 53 | 36 | 3 | ŕ | 10 | Memphis, Tenn | 166 | 98 | 44 | 8 | 4 | | |
| Camden, N. J. | 32 | 17 | 12 | ĩ | i | 1 | Mobile, Ala. | 48 | 28 | 12 | 4 | 1 | | |
| Elizabeth, N. J. | 21 | 13 | 5 | i | i | | Montgomery, Ala, | 59 | 26 | 17 | . 8 | 4 | | |
| Erie, Pa. | 30 | 21 | 6 | ī | - | 1 | Nashville, Tenn. | 79 | 45 | 23 | 5 | 1 | | |
| Jersey City, N. J. | 35 | 11 | 24 | _ | - | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Newark, N. J | 58 | 26 | 17 | 7 | 5 | - | | | | | | | | |
| New York City, N. Y | 1,347 | 843 | 327 | 111 | 31 | 40 | WEST SOUTH CENTRAL | 1,202 | 664 | 306 | 106 | 53 | 14 | |
| Paterson, N. J. | 32 | 20 | 5 | - 6 | 1 | 1 | Austin, Tex | 28 | 18 | 6 | 1 | | | |
| Philadelphia, Pa | 389 | 228 | 106 | 26 | 16 | 24 | Beton Rouge, La | 56 | 26 | 13 | | 7 | | |
| Pittsburgh, Pa | 186 | 103 | 62 | 11 | 4 | 13 | Corpus Christi, Tex | 40 | 17 | 14 | 2 | 3 | | |
| Reading, Pa | 39 | 30 | 7 | 1 | | 1 2 | Dalles, Tex. | 191 53 | 105 31 | 52 11 | 24 | 6 | | |
| Rochester, N. Y | 110 | 57 | 32 | 6 | • | - | El Paso, Tex | 60 | 43 | 18 | á | 5 | | |
| Schenectady, N. Y | 23 33 | 16 27 | 5 | 3 | | 3 | Fort Worth, Tax. | 244 | 135 | 63 | 22 | 10 | | |
| Screnton, Pa. | 69 | 44 | 17 | 1 | 2 | 2 | Houston, Tex | 81 | 47 | 18 | - 5 | 1.0 | | |
| Syracuse, N. Y Trenton, N. J | 37 | 22 | 10 | 2 | | 3 | New Orleans, La. | 152 | 79 | 42 | 17 | 9 | | |
| Utica, N. Y. | 21 | 16 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | San Antonio, Tax | 151 | 88 | 37 | 9 | 3 | | |
| Yonkers, N. Y | 17 | 11 | 6 | i he s si | • | 1 | Shreveport, La Tulsa, Okla | 66 | 39 36 | 19 | - : | 2 5 | | |
| OT NORTH CENTRAL | 2,189 | 1,226 | 602 | 143 | 124 | 55 | | | | | | | | |
| ST NORTH CENTRAL Akron, Ohio | 59 | 35 | 11 | 5 | 5 | - | MOUNTAIN | 438 | 255 | 91 | 29 | 24 | 1 | |
| Canton, Ohio | 32 | 15 | 13 | 1 | 2 | - | Albuquerque, N. Mex | 46 | 23 | 7 | 5 | 3 | | |
| Chicago, III. | 568 | 305 | 155 | 43 | 44 | 15 | Coloredo Springs, Colo. | 33 | 22 | 4 | 3 | 1 | | |
| Cincinnati, Ohio | 125 | 80 | 34 | 2 | 4 | 2 | Denver, Colo | 105 | 54 | 29 | 7 | | | |
| Cleveland, Ohio | 187 | 85 | 66 | 12 | 17 | 3 | Las Vegas, Nev | 17 | - T | 7. | 1 | - | | |
| Columbus, Ohio | 142 | 68 | 45 | 10 | 16 | 9 | Ogden, Utah | 11 | 7 | 2 | 1 | - | | |
| Dayton, Ohio | 83 | 52 | 19 | 6 | 4 | | Phoenix, Ariz. | 110 | 65 | 22 | 5 | 5 | | |
| Detroit, Mich. | 267 | 144 | 71 | 26 | 10 | 6 | Pueblo, Colo | 12 | 9 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Evansville, Ind | 36 | 22 | 8 | 2 | | 3 | Salt Lake City, Utah | 45 | 26 | 9 | 3 | 5 | | |
| Fort Wayne, Ind. | 48 | 31 | 9 | 2 | • | 1 | Tucson, Ariz | 59 | 42 | 10 | 3 | 2 | | |
| Gary, Ind. | 26 42 | 10 25 | 8 14 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1. T. Marie Communication | | | | | | | |
| Grand Rapids, Mich | 138 | 78 | 40 | 12 | - | 2 | DACIEIC | 1.476 | 9 30 | 350 | 79 | 61 | | |
| Indianapolis, Ind | 29 | 17 | 8 | 2 | - | 2 | PACIFIC | 15 | 11 | 3 | | - | | |
| Madison, Wis | 113 | 77 | 23 | 6 | 6 | - | Berkeley, Calif | 75 | 47 | 18 | 4 | 3 | | |
| Peoria, III. | 33 | 19 | 10 | | 3 | 3 | Glendale, Calif. | 21 | 17 | 4 | - | - | | |
| Rockford, III | 48 | 28 | 13 | 2 | 3 | - | Honolulu, Hawaii | 42 | 21 | 16 | 3 | - | | |
| South Bend, Ind. | 59 | 38 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 3 | Long Beach, Celif | 89 | 57 | 20 | 5 | 3 | | |
| Toledo, Ohio | 100 | 60 | 28 | 6 | 3 | 3 | Los Angeles, Celif | 427 | 274 | 101 | 27 | 15 | | |
| Youngstown, Ohio | 54 | 37 | 13 | - | | | Oakland, Calif. | 74 | 36 | 26 | 6 | 5 | | |
| | | | | | | | Pesadena, Calif | 34 | 22 | 6 | 1 | 4 | | |
| | | 64 01 19 | | ALM VELL | | | Portland, Oreg. | 132 | 84 | 34 | 6 | 2 | | |
| | 700 | 420 | 174 | 38 | 42 | 18 | Secremento, Celif | 52 | 32 | 10 | 4 | 3 | | |
| ST NORTH CENTRAL | 41 | 26 | 12 | 1 | 1 | | San Diego, Calif | 96 | 61 | 22 | 4 | 1 | | |
| | | 19 | . 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | San Francisco, Calif | 1 40 | 90 | 29 | 6 | 9 | | |
| Des Moines, Iown Duluth, Minn | 29 | | 11 | 2 | 3 | 2 | San Jose, Calif | 60 | 32 | 17 | • | 3 | | |
| Des Moines, Iown Duluth, Minn. Kansas City, Kans. | 37 | 20 | | 7 | 6 | - | Seattle, Wash | 1 30 | 85 34 | 29 | 5 | nic 🐧 | | |
| Des Moines, Iown Duluth, Minn. Kansas City, Kans. Kansas City, Mo. | 37 109 | 66 | 29 | | | | | 51 | | | | | | |
| Des Moines, Iowa Duluth, Minn. Kansas City, Kans. Kansas City, Mo. Lincoln, Nebr. | 37 109 19 | 66 | 2 | 2 | | - | Spokane, Wash | | | | 3 | 2 | | |
| Des Moines, Iowa Ouluth, Minn. Kansas City, Kans. Lincoln, Nebr. Minneapolis, Minn. | 37 109 19 96 | 66 14 52 | 23 | 2 6 | 11 | 4 | Tacoma, Wesh | 37 | 27 | 5 | i | 3 | | |
| Des Moines, Iowa Duluth, Minn. Kensas City, Kens. Lincoln, Nebr. Minneapolis, Minn. Omeha, Nebr. | 37 109 19 96 85 | 66 14 52 55 | 2 23 22 | 2 6 2 | 11 2 | 40.4 | | | | | | | EÎ. | |
| Duluth, Minn. Kansas City, Kans. Kansas City, Mo. Linsas City, Mo. Minneapolis, Minn. Omaha, Nebr. St. Louis, Mo. | 37 109 19 96 85 184 | 66 14 52 55 108 | 2 23 22 45 | 2 6 2 11 | 11 2 12 | | Tacome, Wesh | 37 | 27 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 3AE | |
| Des Moines, Iowa Duluth, Minn. Kansas City, Kans. Lincoln, Nebe. Minneapolis, Minn. Omeha, Nebr. | 37 109 19 96 85 | 66 14 52 55 | 2 23 22 | 2 6 2 | 11 2 | 40.4 | | 37 | | 5 | | | 36 | |

The Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, circulation 52,000, is published by the Center for Disase Control, Atlanta, Georgia. The data in this report are provisional, based on useably talegraphs to CDC by state health departments. The reporting week concludes at close of business on Friday; compiled data on a national basis are officially released to the public on the secceeding Friday.

The additor welcomes accounts of interesting cases, outbreaks, environmental hazards, or other public health problems of current interest to health officials. Send reports to: Center for Disease Control, Attn.: Editor, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Atlanta, Georgia 30333.

Send mailing list additions, deletions, and address changes to: Center for Disease Control, Attn.: Distribution Services, GSO, 1-88-36, Atlanta, Georgia 30333. When requesting changes be sure to give your former address, including zip code and mailing list code number, or send an old address label.

Influenza -- Worldwide

United States: There have been isolated case reports of influenza-like illness from physicians in Alabama, Montana, Ohio, Oregon, Utah, and Wisconsin, a normal level of reporting for this time of year, but there have been no isolations of any influenza A viruses. There has been 1 isolate from Michigan of a B/Hong Kong-like virus from a single case occurring in the last week in July.

Reported by HF Maassab, PhD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; NS Hayner, MD, State Epidemiologist, Michigan State Dept of Public Health; and the National Influenza Immunization Program,

Worldwide: Malaysia reports localized influenza outbreaks June 10-July 3 with isolates of 3 influenza A strains but no isolates of A/New Jersey-like virus. There have been no other recent reports of influenza-like illness except in Australia, which is reporting the apparent end of its 9-week A/Victoria epidemic.

Reported by the World Health Organization in the Weekly Epidemiologic Record 51 (32,33):258, 266, August 6 and 13, 1976.

Epidemiologic Notes and Reports

Follow-up on Respiratory Disease - Pennsylvania

The epidemic of respiratory disease associated with the American legionnaires who attended a Philadelphia convention in late July appears to be over. Surveys of guests staying at 3 Philadelphia hotels in the 2 weeks following the convention showed no evidence of continuing risk. No new cases relating to the convention, with onset after August 6, have been reported, although, as expected, a few cases which meet the clinical criteria of the disease have been reported with onsets since that date. However, these cases do not appear to be part of the epidemic. As of August 23, 175 cases, including 26 deaths, were recorded.

Results of a questionnaire survey of sick and well Legionnaires demonstrated that persons at greatest risk of illness were voting delegates who stayed at one hotel. There continues to be no evidence of secondary spread to family contacts. No cause for the outbreak has been identified despite continuing toxicologic and microbiologic investigation of specimens from cases and the environment.

Reported by RG Sherrer, MD, City of Philadelphia Dept of Public Health; E Streiff, RN, MPH, Alleghany County Dept of Health; WE Parkin, DVM, Acting State Epidemiologist, Pennsylvania State Dept of Health; Bur of Epidemiology and Bur of Laboratories, CDC.

Chloramphenicol-resistant Haemophilus influenzae - Connecticut, Massachusetts

Nontypable, chloramphenicol-resistant Haemophilus influenzae was recovered in a Massachusetts hospital from the blood of a 38-year-old Connecticut woman with agamma-globulinemia on April 5, 1976. The patient had had frequent pyogenic infections since childhood including H. influenzae meningitis (type unknown) at age 4. Repeated pulmonary infections with resultant pulmonary insufficiency necessitated repeated hospitalizations, especially during the past year. For the past 6 years she had received chloramphenicol for 2 weeks each month spaced between twice monthly gamma globulin injections.

On February 27, *H. influenzae*, type unknown, was first isolated from her sputum; it was sensitive to ampicillin but was not tested for chloramphenicol. Subsequently, the patient had repeated febrile episodes and nontypable *H. Influenzae* was recovered from her blood on 5 occasions, including once when she was receiving parenteral chloramphenicol. She died on May 27 of respiratory failure.

Organisms from 3 blood cultures, one conjunctival culture, and one sputum culture—all obtained during April and May—were resistant to 16-32 μ g/ml chloramphenicol, by the tube dilution technique. Testing with a 30 μ g disk resulted in a zone of 12 mm of inhibition. All isolates, with the exception of the last blood isolate on May 24, were resistant to ampicillin and produced β -lactamase (minimum inhibiting concentration = 32 μ g/ml ampicillin). The blood isolate on May 24 was sensitive to ampicillin and did not Produce β -lactamase.

Reported by F O'Brian, MD, Hartford; J Gettsls, MD, B Lahiri, MD, R Lyons, MD, S Rubin, PhD, St. Francis Hospital, Hartford; J Lewis, MD, State Epidemiologist, Connecticut State Dept of Health; R Moellering, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston;

NJ Fiumara, MD, State Epidemiologist, Massachusetts State Dept of Public Health; Clinical Bacteriology Br, Bacteriology Div, Bur of Laboratories; and Special Pathogens Br, Bacterial Diseases Div, Bur of Epidemiology, CDC.

Editorial Note: There have been 2 previously reported isolates of *H. influenzee* resistant to chloramphenicol. The first isolate was a type b organism recovered in Texas from spinal fluid (1), and the second, a nontypable strain, was cultured from the throat of a 4-year-old girl in the Netherlands (2). Invasive infections of *H. influenzae* are most commonly due to the encapsulated type b strain. Because of the recent occurrence of ampicillin resistant type b isolates, chloramphenicol has been recommended by some for initial therapy in documented or suspected severe *H. influenzae* type b infections (3).

Nontypable *H. Influenzae* organisms are nonencapsulated and are frequently isolated from the respiratory tracts of patients with chronic respiratory infections. The prolonged exposure to chloramphenicol in a patient likely to carry nontypable *H. Influenzae* may have contributed to the emergence of this resistant organism.

The shift in ampicillin sensitivity in this patient may have been due to the loss of a plasmid resistance factor.

References

- 1. Berrett FF, Taber LH, Morris CR, et al: A 12 year review of the antibiotic management of *Hemophilus influenzae* meningitis: Comparison of ampicillin and conventional therapy including chloramphenicol. J Pediatr 81:370-377, 1972
- 2. Manten A, Van Klingersen B, Dessens-Kroon M: Chloramphenicol resistance in *Hemophilus Influenzae*. Lancet 1:702, 1976
- 3. American Academy of Padiatrics, Committee on Infectious Disease: Amplcillin resistant strains of *Hemophilus Influenzee* type b. Pediatrics 55:145, 1979

Current Trends

Explosive Azide Mazard

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has issued an alert that an explosive hazard may exist in hospital and clinical laboratory plumbing systems due to sodium azide formulated into diluents used in conjunction with automatic blood cell counters. These counters are found in more than 15,000 hospital and clinical laboratories in the United States. Decontamination recommendations have already been distributed by NIOSH to most of these laboratories.

NIOSH has recently learned of violent sodium azide-related explosions associated with automatic blood cell counters at a number of hospitals in the United States and Canada. NIOSH is also aware of a violent azide explosion occurring while a constant temperature water bath in which sodium azide had been used as a preservative was being repaired. These explosions have the propensity to propel metallic fragments over a wide area and the potential for causing serious injury to exposed workers and others in the vicinity. When the hazard was substantiated, Coulter Electronics, Inc., the major supplier of automatic blood cell counters to U. S. laboratories, introduced an azide-free hematology reagent system.

Sodium azide is a common preservative in many in vitro diagnostic products and is found in concentrations up to 0.1% in diluents used with automatic blood cell counters. After the blood count procedure is completed, the waste (containing azide) is commonly discharged into a drain, thus bathing the drain pipeline with solutions of sodium azide. Over a period of time, the azide reacts with copper, lead, brass, or solder in the plumbing system to form an accumulation of lead and/or copper azide. Lead azide is a more sensitive primary explosive than nitroglycerine and a more effective detonating agent than mercury fulminate; in comparison with lead azide, copper azide is even more explosive and too sensitive to be used commercially.

Future accumulation of lead and copper azides in plumbing systems can be retarded by thoroughly flushing any drain known to receive azides with large amounts of water several times a day. The use of copper-free and lead-free lines between the point of discharge of azide and the nearest pipe in which there is a good stream of water, or the use of azide-free reagents, may prevent future accumulation of explosive azides in plumbing. However, these measures will not decontaminate plumbing already containing explosive azides.

Laboratory maintenance workers, especially plumbers, should be alerted to the azide hazard so that proper precautions can be taken. Violent explosions have resulted when plumbers have attempted to penetrate blocked azide-contaminated drainege systems with a flexible metal probe (snake) or to cut or saw azide-contaminated drain lines.

For further information about this problem and suggested methods for decontaminating plumbing systems, contact the Technical Evaluation and Review Branch, Office of Extramural Coordination and Special Projects, NIOSH, Rockville, Md. 20852. NIOSH would appreciate being advised in detail of any azide-related explosion or of comments about the effectiveness of the decontamination procedures.

Reported by Technical Evaluation and Review Br, Office of Extremural Coordination and Special Projects, NIOSH, and Office of Biosefety, Office of the Canar Director, CDC.

Erratum, Vol. 25, No. 32

p 245 In the article, "Atypical Measles—California, 1974-1975," the total number of patients in Table 3 should be 56, not 52 as indicated.

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