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CDC INFLUENZA REPORT  
NO. 5 JULY 22, 1957

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SPECIAL NOTE

Information contained in this report is a summary of data reported to CDC by State Health Departments, Epidemic Intelligence Service Officers, National Office of Vital Statistics, collaborating influenza diagnostic laboratories, and other pertinent sources. Much of it is preliminary in nature and is primarily intended for those involved in influenza control activities. It is understood that the contents of these reports will not be released to the press, except by the Office of the Surgeon General, Public Health Service, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. State Health Officers, of course, will judge the advisability of releasing any information from their own states.

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## I. Summary of Information

Far East strain influenza virus has been identified in throat washings from Boy Scouts at the International Jamboree. These specimens came from heavily affected groups. Washings from sporadic cases in other groups have not yet been reported. With the frequent contact of many groups, wide dispersion of the virus is probable. An outbreak of febrile respiratory illness among 380 homeward-bound scouts is noted in this bulletin. One thousand six hundred forty-six Boy Scouts, who attended the Jamboree, sailed for a Jubilee encampment in England. Since 1460 sailed on one liner some crowding during passage is expected.

Influenza-like outbreaks continue to occur in military installations. An air squadron from San Diego experienced illnesses soon after arrival at Corpus Christi, Texas, early in July. Reserve officers from many western states, Alaska, and Hawaii, in training at Fort Lewis, Washington, also reported an unusual number of cases of febrile respiratory illness.

Laboratory confirmed Far East strain influenza has been reported from a summer encampment in Kentucky. Earliest cases occurred in three Californians about July 12.

A ship from the Orient, with many cases of influenza-like illness en route, docked in Seattle, Washington, on July 17. Seventeen patients with acute illnesses were hospitalized.

The description of an influenza outbreak in civilian urban areas of the Federation of Malaya is contained in the present report. Explosive spread of the illness is noted.

Far East strain influenza has now been confirmed in widely separated parts of the country. Seasonal peculiarities of the illness have probably impeded widespread outbreaks. So-called seeding has presumably occurred over a wide area but the nature and extent of such seeding is presently unknown.

## II. Epidemic and Case Reports

### 5-A. WASHINGTON, Fort Lewis

(Reported by Dr. W. R. Giedt, Washington State Department of Health.)

During the period July 4-19 approximately 250 cases of influenza-like illness occurred in military personnel at Fort Lewis. ROTC and other Reserve officers from California, Hawaii, Alaska, and other Western states were among the cases. Throat washings are under study.

### 5-B. WASHINGTON, Seattle

(Reported by Dr. W. R. Giedt, Washington State Department of Health.)

On July 17 a military transport vessel arrived in Seattle from the Orient with 17 cases of influenza-like illness aboard. These were hospitalized on arrival. In addition, approximately 250 other cases occurred during the voyage.

5-C. TEXAS, Corpus Christi

(Reported by Capt. J. R. Seal, M.C., USN, Preventive Medicine Division.)

In early July, 6 cases of febrile respiratory illness developed in a group of Naval airmen shortly after arrival at Corpus Christi air station from San Diego, California. Twenty-three additional cases subsequently developed at the station. Throat washings are under study.

5-D. NEW YORK

(Reported by Drs. R. M. Albrecht and J. L. Freitag, New York State Department of Health.)

Follow-up information on the New York contingent at the Grinnell (Iowa) conference (see CDC Influenza Report 1-J) is now available. Over 100 students attended the conference from Upstate New York. Five were ill at the encampment. Subsequent to return home, the parents of one of these cases developed a similar illness, four and six days respectively, following the student's onset. Both parents had attended the conference. Throat washings were obtained from the parents, and sera from the parents and the 5 cases. Four students became ill on the way home or shortly thereafter. No other secondary cases have been reported thus far.

III. Progress Report

5-E. KENTUCKY, Morris Fork, Breathitt County

(Reported by Drs. R. E. Teague, D. P. Conwell, and S. S. Chapman, Kentucky State Department of Health.)

The outbreak reported as 4-C in Influenza Report No. 4 began on July 11-13, in Morris Fork at an isolated Quaker encampment. There were 12, rather than 15, cases among the 24 people (primarily from out of state) at the camp, and there were no contacts with Grinnell conference cases. However, the disease appeared first in three Californians.

Far East strain influenza virus has now been identified in throat washings from these cases.

5-F. PENNSYLVANIA, Valley Forge

(Reported by Dr. W. D. Shrack, Jr., Pennsylvania State Department of Health; Dr. Eugene Green, PHS, Medical Officer in Charge, International Boy Scout Jamboree; Dr. James Mosley, CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service.)

Far East strains of influenza virus have been isolated from throat washings obtained at the Jamboree by Dr. M. Hilleman, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. These specimens were obtained from

San Francisco and Los Angeles scouts. Additional specimens from other groups are presently under laboratory study.

July 18 marked the final day of the International Boy Scout Jamboree. Three days were required for the 53,000 scouts to complete their departure. About 1000 cases of febrile respiratory disease occurred during the Jamboree. Each of the 38 sections experienced some febrile respiratory illness. Whether all or most of these were also Far East strain influenza is presently not known. Serologic study of returning scouts would help to clarify this question. No data is yet available as to the number of inapparent infections with influenza virus in these groups.

Of a group of 80 scouts from western Colorado and Wyoming, 25 developed an influenza-like illness on July 19 and 20. Special accommodations were provided to carry these boys home by train.

Scouts from Puerto Rico and Rochester, New York, occupied the same tenting section. Cases of febrile respiratory disease were somewhat more common in this group than elsewhere. Complete tabulations for this and other groups are not yet available.

Dr. J. D. Martin, Louisiana Department of Health, reported that several cases of febrile respiratory illness were occurring on a special California-bound train from the Jamboree. Three hundred eighty scouts from Texas and California, who had recently left Valley Forge, were aboard.

An undetermined number of influenza-like illnesses occurred in the Jubilee group of scouts. These boys will attend an encampment in England from August 1 through the 12th. According to a New York Times report, approximately 1646 Jubilee scouts are taking passage to England on two Sitmar Company liners. The Castle Felice, carrying 186 Boy Scouts, sailed on July 18. Another 1460 will depart from Quebec, Canada, on July 22, aboard the liner Fairsea.

#### IV. Influenza in Urban Civilian Group, Federation of Malaya

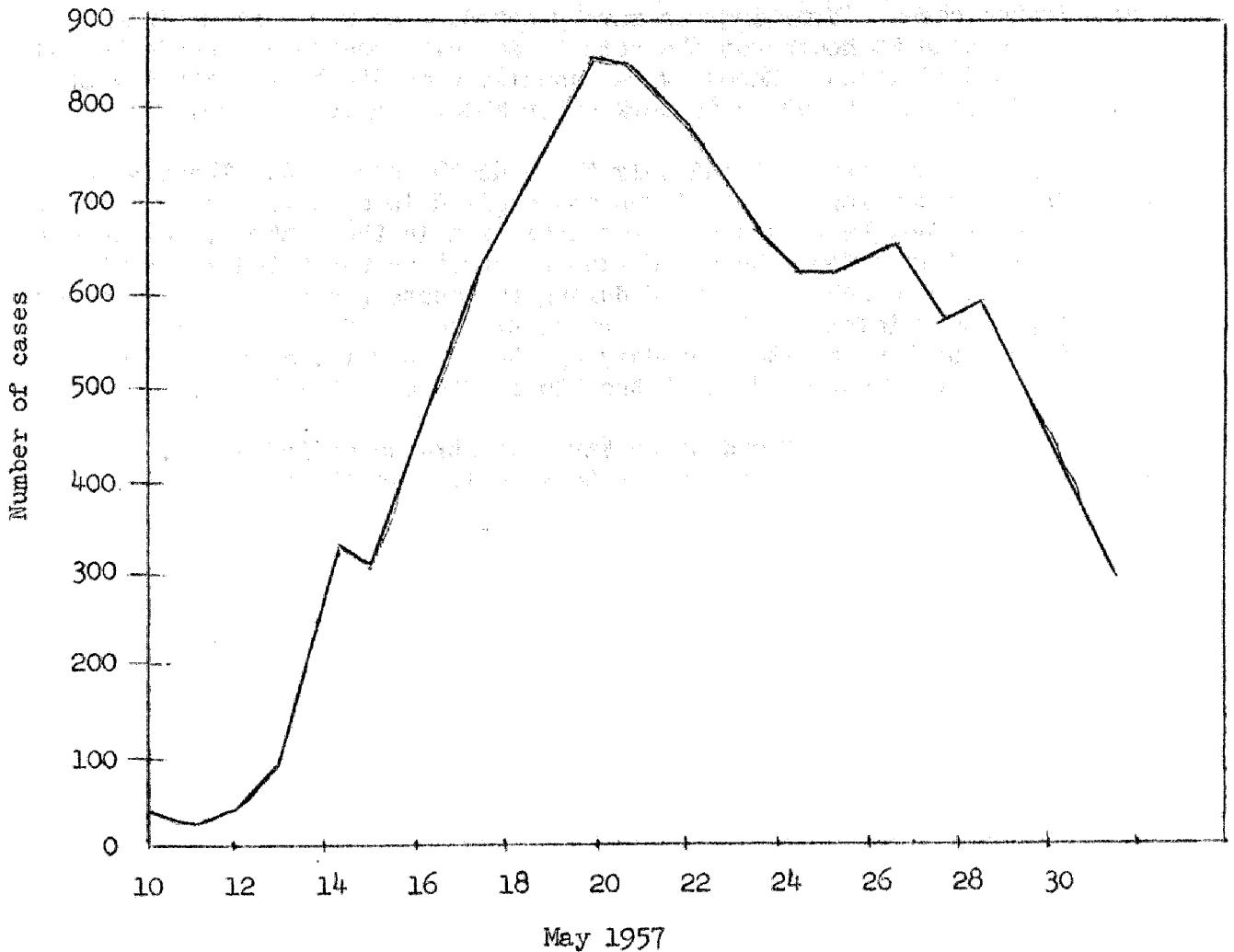
C. E. Gordon Smith, L. H. Turner and C. J. V. Helliwell. Far East Influenza. British Medical Journal 1:1412, (July 15) 1957. (From the Institute for Medical Research, Kuala Lumpur.)

The following account describes the spread of Far East influenza through several Malayan urban areas with a total population of 60,000 persons. Previously, Hong Kong had reported influenza in late April, and, subsequently, Singapore.

On May 16 the first notification of influenza came from Kuala Lumpur, a notoriously hot, humid area. Within a week a sharp rise in incidence was noted in the towns, while rural areas were sharply affected two weeks later. Figure 1 shows the very sudden increase in reported cases during the space of but a few days. Earliest cases were among the poorest groups, living in

Figure 1. Perak North District, Federation of Malaya

Incidence of Influenza



Data for week ends not graphed.

Data from C. E. Gordon, et al., B.M.J. 1:1412, 1957

the most crowded areas. About four weeks elapsed before the upper class Asians and Europeans, living under better conditions, were affected. Asian military units were more heavily affected than the British.

Symptoms varied greatly but generally tended to be mild. The following sequence of symptoms was especially characteristic of children with influenza. Complaints of thirst were followed in 6 to 12 hours by a very sore throat. Examination revealed a "bright red velvety inflammation characteristically confined to the posterior pharyngeal wall." Temperatures recorded at this time were elevated, often about 102°F. Three to 6

hours later a generalized headache developed. Aching in the lower chest and back sometimes accompanied the headache. Children rarely complained of aching but were mainly discomforted by sore throat and a "floating," "bloated" headache. During the next 24 hours tonsillar enlargement without suppuration sometimes occurred. A dry cough was common, becoming brassy in about three days with symptoms of tracheitis. No rales were discovered in uncomplicated cases. Vomiting was rarely noted. Fever was maintained during the second 24 hours but the sore throat disappeared and headache and muscle aches diminished. Recovery was usually complete by the 4th day of illness and patients returned to work after about 5 days absence.

Complications were rare and only three deaths occurred. These were in children who developed meningismus and expired in coma with convulsions. Influenza could not be proved by virus isolation in these three. Meningeal signs developed in a few others. Marked prostration was noted in about 10% of patients and several fainted during the acute phase. Persistence of upper respiratory involvement, e.g. bronchitis occurred in about 10% who returned in 3 or 4 days with secondary symptoms. Rarely, a short recurrence of fever was mentioned about the 7th or 8th day of illness.

Virus isolates were found to be Far East strains of influenza. Serologic studies confirmed these strains to be etiologically responsible.

V. Summary Tables - Cases and Outbreaks

TABLE I

Confirmed Outbreaks and Cases of Influenza Due to Far East Strains, United States  
June 1--July 22, 1957

Dates of Outbreaks	Location	Type of Population	Population at Risk	No. with Influenza-like Illnesses	Deaths	Laboratory Diagnosis by Virus Isolation	Serology	CDC Influenza Report Number
May 20-- June 18	CALIFORNIA San Francisco	Naval and passenger ships in harbor recently arrived from Far East	c. 9500	8007	1. pneumonia		Yes	1-A
Early June	RHODE ISLAND Newport	Crews of several Naval vessels	?	Attack rates by ships 18--45%	0	Yes		1-B 2-G
Mid-June	CALIFORNIA San Diego	Naval Training Station Recruits Station Personnel	c. 4500 c. 6600	3059 753	0 0	Yes (6-21-57)		1-C
June 5-11	CALIFORNIA San Diego	Crew members of a Naval vessel	130	78	0	Yes		1-C
June	HAWAII	Military personnel	?	5277	0		Yes	1-E
		Military dependents		1037	0			
		Civilians		3007	0			
Late June	CALIFORNIA Monterey	Port Ord Army Base Army Personnel	?	5507	0	Yes	Yes	1-H 2-F
Mid-June	OHIO Cleveland	Military man recently returned from Far East Hospital orderly Young female	Single case	Single case	0	Yes		1-D
June 24	OHIO Cleveland	High school girls and adult leaders	Single case	224	0	Yes	Yes	2-A 4-F
June 17-25	CALIFORNIA Davis	College students and adult leaders	391	4	0	Yes	Yes	1-G
June 26-- July 2	IOWA Grinnell	College students and adult leaders	1688	2007	0	Yes	Yes	2-J 1-J
July 1-5	UTAH Salt Lake City	High school students Exposed residents	37 64	30 11	0 0	Yes		1-K 2-E

TABLE I (Continued)

Dates of Outbreaks	Location	Type of Population	Population at Risk	No. with Influenza-like Illnesses	Deaths	Laboratory Diagnosis by		CDC Influenza Report Number
						Virus Isolation	Serology	
Early July	KENTUCKY Lexington	Students returning from Grinnell, Iowa	30	24	0	Yes		2-B
July 5	KENTUCKY Louisville	Traveller from the Philippines	Single case		0	Yes		3-A
July 11-18	PENNSYLVANIA Valley Forge	International Boy Scout Jamboree	53,000	c. 1000	0	Yes		3-D 5-F
July 11-13	KENTUCKY Morris Fork	Isolated encampment	24	12	0	Yes		4-C 5-E



TABLE II

Unconfirmed Influenza-like Illness, Outbreaks - United States  
June 1--July 22, 1957

Dates of Outbreaks	Location	Type of Population	Population at Risk	No. with Influenza-like Illnesses	Deaths	Specimens Obtained		CDC Influenza Report Number
						Throat Washings	Blood	
June 20-25	CALIFORNIA San Mateo Co.	Boys camp 15-17 year olds	53	36	0	Yes	Yes	1-F
May 29-- June 7 June 16	CALIFORNIA Solano Co.	Mare Island Naval Yard - Marines Personnel on cruiser moored in Navy Yard	75 ?	38 187	1 from bacterial pneumonia	Yes	Yes	1-I
Early July	INDIANA Indianapolis Evansville	College students who attended Grinnell (Iowa) conference	?	?	0	Yes		2-C
June 22-- Early July	CALIFORNIA Oceanside	Camp Pendleton Marine recruits	40,000	2511	0	Yes	Yes	2-D
Mid-July	NEW MEXICO Las Vegas	College students who attended Grinnell (Iowa) conference	?	3 <sup>+</sup>	0	Yes	Yes	3-B
	CONNECTICUT			3				3-C
Mid-July	CALIFORNIA Fresno, Sonoma, Los Angeles Counties	Three summer children's camps	800	c.100 c...	0		Yes	3-E
July 8-12	CALIFORNIA Los Angeles	City Jail	?	67	0	Yes	Yes	3-F
Early July	CALIFORNIA Santa Clara	Juvenile Hall, teen-age boys and girls	60	3 <sup>+</sup>	0	Yes	Yes	4-A
Mid-July	LOUISIANA Grant Parish	Boys camp	60	30-35	0	Yes	Yes	4-B
June 26-- Early July	ILLINOIS Champaign Co.	Air Force Base	?	610 <sup>+</sup>	0	?	?	4-D
July 4-19	WASHINGTON Fort Lewis	Military Personnel	?	c.250	0	Yes	?	5-A

TABLE II (Continued)

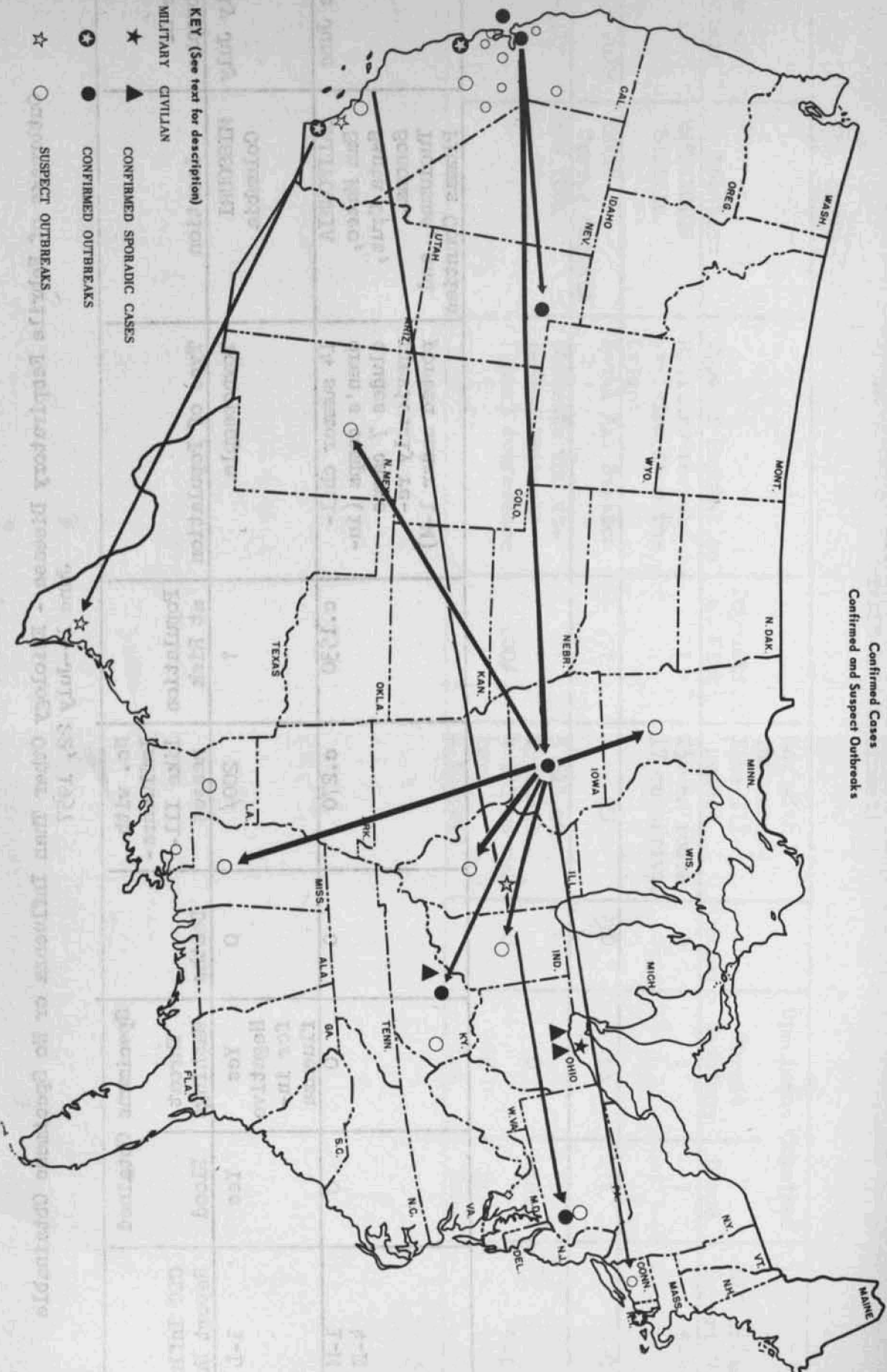
Dates of Outbreaks	Location	Type of Population	Population at Risk	No. with Influenza-like illnesses	Deaths	Specimens Obtained		CDC Influenza Report Number
						Throat Washings	Blood	
July 17	WASHINGTON Seattle	Military vessel arriving from the Orient	?	250 en route 17 on arrival	0	?	?	5-B
Early July	TEXAS Corpus Christi	Naval Air Station	?	29	0	Yes	?	5-C
Mid-July	NEW YORK	Students who attended Grinnell (Iowa) conference	100%	5 ill at Grinnell 4 ill on return 2 parents	0	0 Yes	Yes Yes	5-D

TABLE III

Outbreaks of Febrile Respiratory Disease - Etiology Other Than Influenza or No Specimens Obtainable  
June 1--July 22, 1957

Date of Outbreaks	Location	Type of Population	Population at Risk	No. with Influenza-like Illnesses	Deaths	Specimens Obtained		CDC Influenza Report Number
						Throat Washings	Blood	
Early July	MISSOURI Columbia	Townspeople	?	200 <sup>+</sup>	0	Yes Negative for in- fluenza	Yes	1-L
Late June	CALIFORNIA San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Tuolumne, and Plumas Counties	14 summer children's camps (includes 7 camps previously reported under 1-M)	c.1530	c.270	0	0	0	1-M 4-E

**INFLUENZA - FAR EASTERN STRAIN - 1957**  
 Confirmed Cases  
 Confirmed and Suspect Outbreaks



**KEY (See text for description)**  
 MILITARY CIVILIAN

- ★ CONFIRMED SPORADIC CASES
- CONFIRMED OUTBREAKS
- SUSPECT OUTBREAKS

Arrows indicate probable spread from foci of infection