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Venereal Disease Leading County Communicable List

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KAL KAN 6 OZ.

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## Measles Now Top Malady

By K. H. SUTHERLAND, M.D. County Health Officer

There is a tendency to consider measles an uncomfort-able, but rarely serious di-sease. Yet it kills many more Americans than polio now does. More children die from measles than from any other common childhood disease. Many children who develop complications as a result of measles may suffer such serious impairments as perman-ent brain damage and hear-

In incidence, measles is the most common of the child-hood diseases. Almost every child in the United States has, had or may be expected to contract, this virus caused infection

Occurring most frequently in children between the ages of two and six, the disease spreads from case to case by droplets from the nose or droplets from the nose or throat caused by coughing or sneezing. Healthy carriers are unknown. The infection is contagious for about 9 days —from four to five days be-fore to five days after the fore to five days after the rash appears. The attack rate in measles is higher than for any other infectious disease. Whenever it breaks out, measles infects from 75 to 95 per cent of all exposed susceptible children.

A VERY SMALL propor-tion of those who contract measles have a subclinical or very mild case. The majority have an illness of some sever-ity, characterized by high fever, red rash over most of the body, spots inside the mouth, head cold, harsh cough and inflammation of the mem-branes of the eyes.

The most serious complication of measles is encephali-tis, an inflammation of the brain which can cause mental crippling or even death. Other serious aftermaths of measles include pneumonia, which accounts for nine out of 10 measles deaths, also in-flammation of the middle ear and deafness.

In 1964, a relatively mild In 1964, a relatively mild measles year, there were nine deaths reported in the Los Angeles County Health Department area, including the city of Los Angeles. In the first six months of last year over 200 severly! Il measles patients were admitted to the county general hospital. More than 40 per cent of these developed serious competences and the serious competences are necessarily serious competences. these developed serious com-

MEASLES season com monly March through May-will soon be upon us; therefore, no time should be lost in making arrangements to have unprotected children immunized against measles. Unprotected children include those aged nine months or over who have never had the disease and who have not received the vaccine. Children who have had so-called "10 day" measles need not be im munized as the disease itself usually confers lifetime immunity.

04

253%

Measles vaccine is not available through health depart-ment clinics in this area; par-ents should make arrange-ments with their own family doctors to provide their chil-dren with this important pro-tection.

A leaflet on measles immu-nization will be sent to anyone who writes requesting it from the Division of Health Education, Los Angeles County Health Department, 220 N. Broadway, Los Angeles 12



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