

County Sets Mass Oral Inoculation for Polio

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

This coming October a mass immunization program against polio, using the Sabin oral vaccine, will be started in Los Angeles and other Southern California counties under the auspices of the County Medical Assn.

Clinics will be located in every neighborhood and area so that the vaccine will be readily available to everyone for a donation of only 25 cents per dose, and free for those who cannot pay.

It is the hope of all physicians in medical practice and in public health that the maximum number of persons over three months of age will receive this protection against the disease.

Throughout the world, probably more than 100 million people already have been immunized against poliomyelitis by the Sabin oral vaccine, and as far as is known not a single case of poliomyelitis has been caused by its administration.

THERE ARE several advantages in the use of the Sabin attenuated or weakened live virus vaccine for such a general immunization program, and perhaps the chief one as far as most people are concerned is the fact that it is given by mouth (usually on a lump of sugar) instead of by injection. It is the first vaccine in history to be so administered, and is a painless and simple method that will recommend itself to many individuals.

This orally administered Sabin vaccine also provides an intestinal immunity or resistance to the three types of poliovirus strains, and this the Salk vaccine fails to do. Though the Salk vaccine builds up antibodies in the blood (protective substances that overcome harmful disease agents), it does not protect against harboring polioviruses in the intestinal tract.

INDIVIDUALS immunized with Salk vaccine, and thus protected against the disease, may still transmit the disease to others by way of the fecal-oral route. This may mean some people who harbor live polioviruses in their intestines fail to wash their hands thoroughly after going to the toilet and the disease organisms are transmitted through contaminated articles or food to the mouth of a susceptible person. For it is mainly through the mouth that the poliovirus gains entry into the body.

It is therefore expected that mass immunization with the Sabin oral vaccine will not only protect the individuals so immunized but will possibly completely eliminate poliomyelitis by eliminating its harborage in the human intestine.

This difference in the action of the two vaccines is one of the chief reasons why persons should take the Sabin oral type vaccine even though they have completed the Salk series, including a recent booster.

SO SAFE it is, indeed, that there are no contraindications to taking the Sabin vaccine. There is no indication that illness of any type, pregnancy, or simple debility constitute any increased risk. Nor is there any reaction from taking the vaccine, as is often true of other vaccines. Although it is not ordinarily given to infants under three months, this is simply because newborns may not get a "take" (lasting immunity).

Unless there is a threat of a polio epidemic, immunization with oral vaccine is usually done in the cooler months of the year. In warm weather infections with other intestinal viruses are quite common, and these have an inhibiting action

on the Sabin vaccine which greatly reduces its effectiveness.

ACTUALLY, there will be six different dates on which the vaccine will be given. Type I will be given on two Sundays in October, Type III on two Sundays in December and Type II on two Sundays in January. Since 97 per cent of all paralytic polio cases are accounted for by Types I and III, they are being given first.

Although funds have been advanced to support the program by the Los Angeles County Medical Assn., it is hoped that expenses will be largely met by the small donations which will be contributed. The SOS Program (Sabin Oral Sundays) in Los Angeles County will be the largest immunization program yet attempted in the United States and will involve thousands of volunteers working at approximately 600 clinics.

Supervisors Approve Sabin Polio Program

Full support of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has been given the Sabin Oral Sundays (SOS) campaign to immunize all residents of Southern California against polio.

Endorsement came in the form of an unanimous resolution commending the Los Angeles County Medical Assn. in joining with five other Southern counties in an effort to eradicate the crippling virus.

Both Macdonald and Debs were thanked on behalf of the children of Los Angeles County by two North Hollywood youngsters, Diane Divon, 10, and Brian Harp, 9.

and suffering to thousands of families here. No one should miss the chance to help stamp out polio forever."

"THE LOS ANGELES County Medical Assn. is performing a public service of high order in making Sabin Oral Vaccine available to every resident in the county."

gives polio immunity to the individual, and destroys latent virus in the system which makes some persons carriers of the disease.

A MINIMUM donation will be asked of 25 cents for each dosage administered, but no one will be refused the immunization. In fact, a special effort will be made to reach people who might not otherwise receive the vaccine.

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