

COMMITTEE REPORT
SENATE

FURTHER:

2/8/83

Date: 3/1/83

Mr. President:

The Committee on FINANCE has had SB NO. 96

Special appropriation to the Department of Health and Social Services for inoculations for Hepatitis B; add. date

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for SB 96 (Finance) same title
 new title
- and recommends do pass
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

Bob M... ..
...
...
...
...
...
...

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

...
CHAIRMAN

Original sponsor: Sackett

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Funding Information | |
| General Fund | \$250,000 |
| Other Funds | -0- |
| | <u>\$250,000</u> |

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 96 (Finance)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act reducing a fiscal year 1983 appropriation and
7 making a special appropriation to the Department of
8 Health and Social Services for inoculations for
9 hepatitis B; and providing for an effective date."

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

11 * Section 1. The sum of \$250,000 is appropriated from the general fund
12 to the Department of Health and Social Services for inoculations for hepa-
13 titis B.

14 * Sec. 2. Section 14, ch. 139, SLA 1982, page 14, line 1st is amended to
15 read:

| | APPROPRIATION | GENERAL | OTHER |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| | ITEMS | FUND | FUNDS |
| 16 SB 842 Providing for Permanent | | | |
| 17 Fund Dividends - Appropriated | | | |
| 18 to the Department of Health and | | | |
| 19 Social Services | <u>12,616,500</u> | <u>12,548,200</u> | 68,300 |
| 20 | [12,866,500] | [12,798,200] | |

21 * Sec. 3. The unexpended and unobligated portion of the appropriation
22 made by this Act lapses into the general fund June 30, 1984.

23 * Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
24 10.070(c).
25
26
27
28
29

Introduced: 1/31/83
Referred: Health, Education and
Social Services and Finance

Funding Information
General Fund \$250,000
Other Funds -0-
\$250,000

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SACKETT

2

SENATE BILL NO. 96

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Health and Social Services for inoculations for hepatitis B; and providing for an effective date."

7

8

9

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

11 * Section 1. The sum of \$250,000 is appropriated from the general fund
12 to the Department of Health and Social Services for inoculations for
13 hepatitis B.

14 * Sec. 2. The unexpended and unobligated portion of the appropriation
15 made by this Act lapses into the general fund June 30, 1984.

16 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
17 10.070(c).

FEB 23 1983

BILL SHEFFIELD
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

February 24, 1983

The Honorable John C. Sackett
Senator
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Sackett:

The proposed approach for funding the hepatitis B inoculations program contained in CSSB 96 should expedite approval of the funding for this important program. Accordingly, we will delete this item from the FY 83 appropriations transfer bill the Administration is preparing.

The identification of the funding sources for appropriation bills is a vital element in our State government's demonstration of fiscal responsibility. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Sheffield".

Bill Sheffield
Governor

POSITION PAPER

SENATE BILL NO. 96

"An Act making a special appropriation to the Department of Health and Social Services for inoculations for hepatitis B; and providing for an effective date."

Sponsor: Sackett

This bill appropriates \$250,000 SGF to the Department of Health and Social Services for inoculations for hepatitis B and provides for an immediate effective date.

Background

A. The Disease

Hepatitis B is a disease caused by a virus. Disease severity can range from inapparent infection to a fulminating process leading quickly to death. There is currently no specific treatment against the virus.

Once infected, individuals may become chronic carriers of the virus, i.e., continue to be infected and to be able to spread infection to others. Moreover, chronic carriers of hepatitis B virus (HBV) are subject to complications including primary liver cancer with a nearly 100% mortality rate unless detected early or polyarteritis nodosa, a serious inflammatory disease of arteries with a 30% mortality rate. It is estimated that 20-25% of chronic HBV carriers will develop chronic active hepatitis with cirrhosis.

B. Prevalence

Both the rates of infection and the rates of chronic HBV carriers are known to be very high in certain Native groups in Alaska, particularly the Yupik-speaking groups in the Bethel area. In some villages which have been surveyed, the infection rate has been found to be as high as 73.1%.

Less is known about prevalence in other Native groups but there are reasons to suggest that rates are probably higher than among non-natives.

Other groups at high risk of HBV infection include: health and hospital care providers; hemodialysis patients; recipients of blood products, laboratory workers; dentists and allied dentist personnel; homosexuals; illicit users of injected drugs; staff and residents in institutions for the mentally retarded; sexual and household contacts of HBV carriers; newborn infants whose mothers are HBV carriers; and immigrants from geographic areas with a high incidence of HBV such as Southeast Asian refugees.

C. Vaccine

In November, 1981 a vaccine against hepatitis B was licensed for use in individuals 3 months of age or older. Vaccine is administered to high risk groups in three doses over a six month period. The vaccine is estimated to be 80-95% effective in protecting susceptible individuals. Duration of protection, and consequently the need for booster doses, is not known.

The vaccine is expensive (current cost is \$95.55 for sufficient vaccine for the three-dose course for one individual). Because of the high vaccine cost and because the vaccine is of no value to individuals already infected, pre-vaccination blood testing of potential recipients is recommended. Cost of blood testing is estimated at \$10-15 per test. To these costs must be added cost of vaccine distribution and administration plus data processing.

D. Existing programs

In the current fiscal year, DHSS undertook screening and vaccination of high risk groups in state institutions including Harborview Developmental Center, The Alaska Psychiatric Institute and State Correctional Centers.

The Alaska Native Health Service (ANHS) in cooperation with the federal Center for Disease Control has undertaken a vaccination program in the Bethel area villages where prevalence studies have been conducted. They have also used federal fiscal year-end monies (\$500,000 for FFY 1982) to purchase additional vaccine.

Proposed program

The proposed activities during FY 83 involve close correlation with the Alaska Native Health Service hepatitis B program. Emphasis will be placed on screening of the highest risk population who will not be reached by the ANHS. Susceptibles will receive vaccine.

Position

The Department is strongly supportive of funding in FY 83 which would permit intensification of the program in the current fiscal year. However, the Governor's Office is submitting a delete-add supplemental for \$250.0 utilizing funds already appropriated for Permanent Fund Hold Harmless. Thus, costs of HBV program activities in FY 83 could be absorbed without additional appropriation.

Recommended by: E. S. Rabeau M.D./DB
E. S. Rabeau, M.D., Director
Division of Public Health

Date: Feb 3, 1982

Approved by: Robert London Smith
Robert London Smith, Ph.D.
Commissioner
Department of Health and Social Services

Date: 2/7/83

COMMITTEE REPORT
SENATE

1/31/83

FURTHER: FINANCE

Date: 2/7/83

Mr. President:

The Committee on HESS has had SENATE BILL NO 96

Special appropriation to the Department of Health and Social Services for inoculations for hepatitis B; eff. date.

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
 new title
- and recommends _____
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

Carl Joseph

V. Fischer

Paul Frede

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

² Rich Halford No Rec.

Carl Joseph
CHAIRMAN

~~CSHB 93~~
(Fin)
SB 96

Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)

HBV infection is becoming a significant health problem in Alaska, especially in the highly susceptible Alaska Native community and, in particular, the Yupik Eskimo.

Hepatitis B infection is usually caused by prolonged close and intimate contact with a carrier and/or infected blood or blood products or serous discharges.

Complications of HBV infection can be many e.g. polyarteritis nodosa (serious inflammatory condition of the arteries) with a 30% mortality rate; primary hepatocellular carcinoma (PHC), has the highest incidence in the U.S.A. Estimated 10% of HBV chronic carriers will develop HPC; chronic active hepatitis with cirrhosis (CAH) will develop in 20 to 25% of chronic HBV carriers.

People at high risk include:

- Yupik Eskimos and to a lesser variable extent other Alaskan Natives
- Health and hospital care providers
- Hemodialysis patients
- Recipients of blood products
- Laboratory workers
- Dentists and allied dental personnel
- Gay communities
- Illicit injectable drug users
- Staff and patients of mentally retarded institutions
- Sexual and household contacts of known carriers
- Newborn infants of mothers who are HBV carriers
- Southeast Asian groups

~~In late November 1981 a request for a supplemental appropriation of about 800,000 dollars to initiate a HBV program was sent to the Governor's Office. It never reached the legislature.~~

Normally the State provides and totally runs immunization programs for all State residents. Due to shortage of funds, high cost of HBV program and availability of some funds to ANHS in their budget ANHS (Alaska Native Health Service) and the State (Division of Public Health) are coordinating a joint effort. A Memorandum of Understanding has been jointly developed by both agencies covering many issues e.g.

- (a) Public Health Nurses will assist ANHS personnel where possible in screening initial vaccination and particularly follow-up vaccination.
- (b) If ANHS cannot hire people because of locale of fund allocation of last \$500,000, they will contract with us to provide all the necessary program people and activities.

- (c) In predominantly Native communities their screening teams will screen all citizens. We will be responsible for the lab testing of non-natives and will make arrangements for vaccination or replacement of vaccine if they do it.
- (d) ANHS and the State will use common forms e.g. info sheet, indications for blood-testing, vaccination, refusal-for-vaccination form. These forms are being edited for both parties.

The attached report gives necessary funding for a control program.

Because of the economics, a control program rather than an eradication program is proposed at this time. The purpose of such a program is to identify foci of infection and wall it off (break the chain of infection) by vaccinating the appropriate susceptibles.

Enclosed also is a document in which the population for an urban non-military, non-native program will go hand in glove with the rural predominantly native program.

We cannot estimate the cost of vaccine down the road but guess it will drop fairly precipitously within five years.

REPORT ON HEPATITIS B

The following action program outline is of two parts; an HBV program to control non-native population, one to coordinate a joint ANHS/State program and a total for a State-wide program conducted by the State.

Personnel required to handle project for the non-native, non-military Alaska population:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Project supervisor | 21A | 41.7 |
| Clerk IV | 9B | 19.5 |
| Microbiologist II | 16A | 34.0 |
| 2 Nurse Practitioners or equiv. | 18A (34 x 2) | 68.0 |
| | | 163.2 |
| Computer Programmer | | 32.0 |
| | | 195.2 |

4 Months Program (March thru June, 83) FY 84 Program

| | | |
|------------------|-------|-------|
| Personnel | 48.8 | 195.2 |
| PCIS | 25.0 | 10.0 |
| Lab | 50.0 | 90.0 |
| Travel | 38.0 | 91.0 |
| Vaccine | 80.0 | 112.0 |
| Equipment, Misc. | 8.2 | 1.8 |
| | 250.0 | 500.0 |

Much of the vaccinations would be handled by PHN's, health centers and by staffs of institutions. Screening i.e. blood collection, likewise would be done by health care facilities and private practitioners to a great extent. Much of the non-native possible high risk populations may be clustered around the various cities.

These program logistics are in addition to the program proposed by the ANHS. They anticipate expenditure of one million dollars a year for three years.

The total cost of a State-wide program is about 5 3/4 million dollars through June, 1987. It is based on State funding of \$250.0 balance of present fiscal year, \$500.0 FY 84, \$600.0 FY 85, \$700.0 FY 86, \$700.0 FY 87 along with the ANHS expenditure of 3 1/4 million over first three years of above activity. It is anticipated that these dollars would be turned over to the State through contract to get Alaskan Natives to a maintenance level. If, for any reason, the Federal monies were not appropriated, it would require additional State funding. ANHS received \$500,000 FY 82 year end monies and they purchased vaccine sufficient for the first year of the program. They received \$500.0 in their FY 83 appropriation which is \$265.0 less than their indicated program need. They envision 60,000 patients screened and 19,000 vaccine recipients over the three years. They plan for a staff of 10 persons - we would reduce this to 8 persons if we do (hopefully) the program.

The following table summarizes their proposed Hepatitis B Detection Surveillance and Control Program for Alaska Natives.

3 Year Proposed Budget

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Year One</u> | <u>Year Two</u> | <u>Year Three</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Personnel | 385.0 | 300.0 | 316.0 | 901.0 |
| Travel | 294.0 | 147.0 | 294.0 | 735.0 |
| Supplies | 172.0 | 172.0 | 172.0 | 516.0 |
| Equipment | 15.0 | -0- | -0- | 15.0 |
| Vaccine | -0- | 405.0 | 518.0 | 923.0 |
| | already bought (with year-end FY 82 monies) | | | |
| Total | 766.0 | 1024.0 | 1300.0 | 3090.0 |

5240

Population at High Risk for HBV
(excludes Military and Native Populations)

The assumptions are made that the Native population, as well as the military, will be handled by the ANHS (Alaska Native Health Service) and the military health system respectively.

Various population groups are at high risk; they may be so for a variety of reasons, ranging from geographic location, occupation, sexual practices to life style.

The following chart illustrates the types, numbers and rationales. This is followed by summary tables elaborating on numbers to be screened and numbers for potential vaccination. (numbers rounded off to nearest twenty-five for ease)

| | | |
|-----|--|------|
| 1) | EMS workers (non-native, non-military) | 1500 |
| 2) | Health Care Workers (long term care) | 1400 |
| 3) | Hospital staff (exc. Federal Hospitals) | 3500 |
| 4) | Harborview, already screened, vacc. on 1/26/83 | 0 |
| 5) | Developmentally disabled (500 staff, 200 clients) | 700 |
| 6) | Hemodialysis and hemophiliacs (patients & family) | 200 |
| 7) | Gay community, est. 9600 (Anch., Fairbanks, Juneau) | 7800 |
| 8) | Illicit injectable drug users (600-700) | 650 |
| 9) | Household and sexual contacts of known carriers 2000-3000 (allowing for double reporting) | 2500 |
| 10) | Corrections inmates (first study shows not at high risk) | 0 |
| 11) | To identify newborn infants of mothers who are carriers | 8000 |

| | | |
|--|---------------|--------|
| ENT's | 1500 x 90% = | 1350 |
| L.T. Care Workers | 1400 x 90% = | 1250 |
| Hospital Workers | 3500 x 90% = | 3150 |
| Dev. disabled staff & patients | 700 x 80% = | 550 |
| Hemodialysis, hemophiliacs & staff | 200 x 90% = | 175 |
| Gay community est. 9600 (Anch., Fairbanks, Juneau) | 7800 x 20% = | 1550 |
| Illicit injectable drug users | 650 x 20% = | 125 |
| Household and sexual contacts, carriers | 2500 x 85% = | 2125 |
| Correction inmates | 0 | |
| Newborns of carriers | 8000 x 0.3% = | 25 |
| | 26,250 | 10,300 |

(rounded-off figures)

26,250 estimated to be screened (exclusive of IHS program). This will not include other people not included above who will ask for test.

39% (est. 8,700) susceptibles to be vaccinated.

The above needs to be done within the next 16 months, (FY 1984, plus last 4 months of FY 83).

APPENDIX

Methodologies Used

- 1) EMS population figures from Section of EMS, DPH, reduced by eliminating Natives.

Health care workers population (long term care) taken from State Health Plan Data Appendix.
- 2) Hospital staffs (exclusive ANHS and Military) taken from State Health Plan Data Appendix.
- 3) Developmentally disabled patients and staff members given by Division of Mental Health.

Harborview staff and clientele already done by Division of Public Health.
- 4) Hemodialysis patients and staff; hemophiliacs numbers supplied by Section of Family Health, DPH.
- 5) Gay community numbers arrived at by figuring male population (non-native and non-military) between ages of 15 and 65; taking 10% of that number. Number used was calculating numbers for Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. 1980 census for numbers of sex, racial and age characteristics was used.
- 6) Numbers of illicit injectable drug users was furnished by Office of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.
- 7) Contacts of household and sexual contacts was estimated trying to eliminate double reporting of ones that would be counted under any of the above categories.
- 8) Numbers of corrections' inmates is counted as zero because study we did shows them not to be at high risk at this time. We screened over 350 long term ones. Many of new ones will have been screened under one of the aforementioned programs.
- 9) There are about 10,000 births in the State annually; 2000 of them are Native and can be excluded from this listing.

Assumptions are many --

- a) It is difficult to accurately predict numbers that will accept screening and/or vaccination. Probably the screening numbers may be as much as 10-20% under our figures.
- b) For vaccination the percentages used were to allow for varying numbers of susceptibles and also refusal to accept vaccine.
- c) The percentage used for calculating male homosexual population was received from homosexual physician in Anchorage plus articles in medical journals.

- d) This program is considerably different than any other immunization program. The cost of the test and the exorbitant cost of the vaccine makes it necessary to screen rather than to vaccinate carte blanche.
- e) In addition, it is necessary to test to identify carriers (HBV surface antigen bearers) in order that testing for liver cancer can be done.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

I. Statement of Introduction

The State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health and the United States Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, Alaska Area Native Health Service intend to enter into a memorandum of understanding to cooperatively develop and deliver a preventive program of Hepatitis B Virus infection control in Alaska.

Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection is a significant health problem in Alaska, especially in the highly susceptible Alaska Native Community. The recently available hepatitis B vaccine is an effective tool to control this important infection and to prevent the HBV related complications of liver cirrhosis, primary hepatic cancer and vasculitis.

A Hepatitis B Immunization and Control Program is a complicated one, and multifaceted activities are required at all organizational levels by several agencies to make it successful. Therefore, it is the desire of the Alaska Native Health Service and the Division of Public Health to coordinate available financial resources, personnel, laboratory services and professional expertise for implementation of a quality Hepatitis B Immunization and Control Program in an expeditious and cost-effective manner and to designate major administrative priority to the Program.

Implementation and accomplishment of the Hepatitis B Control Program depends upon the availability of continued State of Alaska funding and USPHS funding. Lack of funding would invalidate or necessitate modification of this understanding.

II. Areas of Agreement

A. Needs

1. At risk individuals need to be identified through expert analysis of appropriately obtained blood sera.
 - a. adequate laboratory facilities and technical capabilities are necessary to perform a large number of serologic determinations.
 - b. specialized personnel are necessary to obtain blood specimens from all individuals in entire rural Alaska Communities and who can separate serum, accurately identify specimens and ensure arrival at the laboratory expeditiously and intact.
2. Data systems need to be accessible and able to provide:
 - a. census data
 - b. demographic identification of all specimens
 - c. integration of individual serological and immunization data into the medical record.

- d. lists of susceptible individuals
 - e. lists of susceptible individuals by risk category
 - f. lists of individuals who are HBs Ag carriers.
 - g. the established data system would provide the above data on an ongoing basis.
3. As much as possible, the immunization phase of the Hepatitis B Immunization and Control Program needs to be integrated into existing vaccine delivery programs.
- a. Initially, the immunization phase needs coordinated efforts from public health nurses, specifically employed supplemental personnel, Community Health Aides and Alaska Native Health and Native Health Corporation health care providers.
 - b. Specialized care provided to newborns and infants of HBs Ag positive mothers needs to be provided in the hospitals at the time of delivery and the times when routine care coincides with established hepatitis B immunization protocols.
4. Sera aliquots from specimens needed by CDC need to be provided with demographic and serologic data to the CDC, Alaska Investigations Division.
- a. to establish a sera bank
 - b. to provide cancer screening with alpha-fetoprotein determinations on all HBs Ag positive individuals.

B. Risk Priorities

1. Infants born to HBs Ag positive carriers.
2. Household contacts of HBs Ag carriers.
3. Rural Alaska communities with a HBs Ag carrier rate of 5 percent or greater.
4. Individuals and staff in institutions for the mentally retarded.
5. Renal hemodialysis patients and hemophiliacs.
6. Active male homosexuals.
7. Health care providers having frequent blood contact.
8. Identified high risk prison groups.
9. Illicit injectable drug users.

C. Agency Interactions:

1. To meet the high risk needs in the Alaska Native Community, the Alaska Native Health Service intends to enter into a contract with the State of Alaska.
 - a. to develop and maintain a Hepatitis B Control Program in cooperation with the ANHS Project Officer and the CDC-AID Director.
 - b. to identify and vaccinate high risk Alaska Natives.
 - (1) household contacts of known HBs Ag+ carriers
 - (2) village residents of known villages with 5 percent or greater HBs Ag+ carriers.
 - (3) high risk villages in Western Alaska with first priority to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Area.
 - c. the contract will be written immediately and implementation start as soon as possible.
2. Coordination of the Hepatitis B Immunization and Control Program will be cooperatively directed by the Chief, Communicable Disease Control Section and the Chief, Community Health Services.
 - a. Monthly meetings involving key persons will occur.
 - b. Records of discussion and decision made in the monthly meetings will be appropriately distributed.
 - c. A periodic information circulation will be published.
3. Free access and exchange of Hepatitis B epidemiologic information will be shared between the State of Alaska, Alaska Native Health Service and the Centers for Disease Control.

D. Specific Responsibilities

1. The State of Alaska Division of Public Health will be responsible for the administration of Hepatitis B vaccine. The vaccine will be administered by public health nurses, supplemental personnel, and other health care providers as needed.
2. Initial hepatitis preventive care and care that coincides with routine preventive care of newborns and infants will be provided by the Alaska Native Service or contract physicians.
3. Sera aliquots with demographic and serologic data will be sent to CDC, Alaska Investigation division by the State Laboratory.
4. Alpha Fetoprotein determinations will be performed by the CDC, Alaska Investigations Division.
5. Serologic determinations for the clinical needs of the Alaska Native Health Service and for the prenatal screening of Alaska Native Service beneficiaries will be provided by the Clinical laboratory of the ANHC.

6. In consultation with appropriate experienced CDC persons, the Laboratory Section, Division of Public Health, State of Alaska will develop the capability and quality assurances to assume responsibility for all the serologic screening necessary to conduct the Hepatitis B Immunization and Control Program.
7. In consultation with the appropriate CDC and PCIS persons the State of Alaska will develop an accessible and acceptable computer service to conduct the Hepatitis B Immunization and Control Program in the State Northern Regional Laboratory in Fairbanks.
8. The administration of the Hepatitis B Infection and Control Program will be the responsibility of the State of Alaska.
9. Evaluation of the impact of the Hepatitis B Infection and Control Program on the beneficiaries of the Alaska Native Health Service will be a responsibility of appropriate Alaska Native Health Service personnel. The State of Alaska Division of Public Health will evaluate the effect of the Program on the overall state population.

III. Renewal/Modification Clause

This Memorandum of Understanding is in effect for three (3) years unless modification or termination is issued with thirty (30) days advance notice by the offices of the original signers.

IV. Conclusion

Although the need to begin Hepatitis B Infection prevention and control is urgent, actions in program development and delivery must hold to the following principles;

1. Cooperation and trust
2. Open communication
3. Quality assurance
4. Rational planning.

Signatures:

B. A. [Signature]
 Director, Alaska Area Native Health Services

January 27, 1983

E. S. [Signature]
 Director, Division of Public Health, State of Alaska

Jan. 28, 1983

R. L. [Signature]
 Commissioner, State of Alaska Department of Health & Social Services

January 28, 1983

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ABOUT HEPATITIS B AND HEPATITIS B VACCINE

Please read this carefully

WHAT IS HEPATITIS B?

Although Hepatitis B is an unpredictable disease with a variety of presentations and outcomes, most patients recover. Persistence of viral infection (the chronic carrier state) occurs in 5 to 10% of persons who become infected with hepatitis B virus. Acute Hepatitis B infection may be symptomatic and can incapacitate a person for weeks to months or lead to complications or chronic sequelae. However, 50 to 60% of all Hepatitis B infections are subclinical, asymptomatic, and usually undetected. These cases have a greater risk of progression to chronic sequelae. Chronic sequelae of Hepatitis B infection include:

Chronic carrier state - develops in 5-10% of adult patients who have Hepatitis B.

Chronic persistent hepatitis - generally benign.

Chronic active hepatitis - major late complication; occurs in 3-5% of cases; often progresses to cirrhosis.

Cirrhosis - an estimated 11% of deaths due to cirrhosis are associated with Hepatitis B. (4000/year)

Liver Cancer - the relative risk for carriers is 273 times greater than for non-carriers (800 die/year from Hepatitis B related liver cancer)

There is no specific treatment and no known cure for Hepatitis B. The new vaccine can help prevent Hepatitis B.

HEPATITIS B VACCINE

The Immunization Practices Advisory Committee (ACIP) USPHS, has identified certain populations at risk of HBV infection and has recommended vaccination for appropriate members of the following groups:

ACIP recommendations for vaccination against Hepatitis B infection

- | | |
|--|---|
| .health-care workers | .classroom contacts of deinstitutionalized mentally retarded |
| .hospital staff | HBV carriers who behave aggressively. |
| .clients and staff of institutions for the mentally retarded | .special high-risk populations from areas where Hepatitis B is highly endemic |
| .hemodialysis patients | Indochinese and Haitian refugees |
| .homosexually active males | Alaskan Eskimos |
| .illicit injectable drug users | .inmates of long-term correctional facilities |
| .recipients of certain blood products | |
| .household and sexual contacts of HBV carriers | |

Persons at substantial risk of Hepatitis B infection who are demonstrated or judged likely to be susceptible should be vaccinated.

VACCINATION: Vaccination consists of 3 intramuscular doses of vaccine. The second and third doses should be given 1 and 6 months, respectively, after the first. Vaccine doses administered at longer intervals than those stipulated provide equally satisfactory protection, but optimal protection is not conferred until after the third dose. The duration of protection and the need for booster doses have not yet been determined.

Vaccination of individuals who possess antibodies against HBV from a previous infection is not necessary but will not cause adverse effects. The vaccine produces neither therapeutic nor adverse effects in Hepatitis virus carriers.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS FROM THE VACCINES:

Adverse Reactions: Hepatitis B vaccine is generally well tolerated. No serious adverse reactions attributable to vaccination have been reported during the course of clinical trials involving administration of Hepatitis B vaccine to over 6,000 individuals. Approximately half of all reported reactions were injection-site soreness. Other less common local reactions have included erythema, swelling, warmth, or induration. These signs and symptoms of local inflammation are generally well tolerated and usually subside within 2 days of vaccination.

Low-grade fever (less than 101°F) occurs occasionally and is usually confined to the 48-hour period following vaccination. Although uncommon, fever over 102°F has been reported. Systemic complaints, including malaise, fatigue, headache, nausea, dizziness, myalgia, and arthralgia, are infrequent and have been limited to the first few days following vaccination. Rash has been reported rarely.

As with any vaccine, there is the possibility that broad use of the vaccine could reveal rare adverse reactions not observed in clinical trials.

WARNING - SOME PERSONS SHOULD NOT TAKE THIS VACCINE WITHOUT CHECKING WITH A DOCTOR:

.Hepatitis B vaccine is not known to cause special problems for pregnant women or their unborn babies. However, doctors usually avoid giving any drugs or vaccines to pregnant women unless there is a specific need. Pregnant women should check with a doctor before taking Hepatitis B vaccine.

.Those who are sick right now with something more serious with a cold.

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions about Hepatitis B vaccination, please ask us now or call your doctor or health department before taking the vaccine.

REACTIONS: Anyone receiving vaccine who gets sick and seeks medical help in the 4 weeks after vaccination should report this to the facility which provided the vaccine.

STANDING ORDERS
Hepatitis B Vaccine

Type of Vaccine

Age

Dosage

Hepatitis B

3 months through
life

3 doses i.m.; given on days 0, 1
month later and 6 months after 1st
dose.

| | Initial | 1 mo. | 6 mo. |
|---|---------|--------|--------|
| 3 months to 10 yrs. | 0.5ml | 0.5ml | 0.5ml |
| > - 10 yrs. | 1.0ml | 1.0ml | 1.0ml |
| Dialysis and Immuno- compromised | 2.0ml* | 2.0ml* | 2.0ml* |

* Two 1.0 ml doses given at
different sites, i.m.

1. Store vials at 2-8°C. (35.6 - 46.4°F)
2. Shake well before using.
3. DO NOT FREEZE
4. Provide Hepatitis B Vaccine information sheet to each person before vaccination.

Contraindications: Hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine.

- Precautions:
1. Not recommended for use in pregnant women. Ask if woman is pregnant. If answer is no, vaccine may be administered.
 2. Not recommended at present for use in children below the age of 3 months.

- Indications:
1. Indicated for immunization against infection caused by all known subtypes of Hepatitis B virus.
 2. Vaccination is recommended in persons 3 months of age or older who are at substantial risk of infection with Hepatitis B virus.
 3. Groups and individuals to be vaccinated are designated by the Medical Epidemiologist, Division of Public Health or his designee.

STATE OF ALASKA

JAY S. HALMICHOD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SECTION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

ROOM 222, MAGWAY BUILDING
338 DENALI STREET, ANCHORAGE 99501

January, 1983

HEPATITIS B AND HEPATITIS B VACCINE

I certify that I have been provided information about Hepatitis B. I am aware that I may be at increased risk of contracting Hepatitis B infection because of my work or my residence. I have had an opportunity to ask questions about Hepatitis B and to discuss Hepatitis B with staff at this facility. I understand that I can have my blood tested free of charge to see if I have been infected with Hepatitis B in the past or whether I could become infected with Hepatitis B in the future. I understand that I can also be vaccinated against Hepatitis B free of charge and that vaccination can protect me from becoming infected with Hepatitis B in the future. I understand that this program is entirely voluntary but that the Division of Public Health strongly recommends that I have my blood tested and, if I have not been infected with Hepatitis B in the past, that I receive Hepatitis B vaccine.

I do not wish to have my blood tested for Hepatitis B.

I do not wish to be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

(Signature)

(Date)

(Witness)