

Children of Orange and Ulster To Take Part in Polio Vaccine Trials This Spring and Summer

Both Orange and Ulster counties have been designated by State Health Commissioner Herman E. Hilleboe as part of a group of counties to take part in polio vaccine trials this spring and summer. Across the river, Dutchess County has received a similar designation. The new vaccine, health authorities hope, may provide the eventual key to eradicating polio. It will be administered with parental consent to boys and girls in the first three grades in all schools of the participating counties.

Actually all participating counties were selected by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis after consultation with state health officials. The National Foundation requirements for New York State are that a county must be of more than 50,000 population and must have had a high polio incidence for the past five or six years, a high epidemic rate in the last five years from June through September, high attack rate in specific age group, adequate health and education facilities, and socio-economic factors such as geographic location to provide a significant cross-section study.

Program Depends on Supply

New York is one of eleven states in the nation which will carry out special control studies. In the remaining 37 states and the District of Columbia there will be a more restricted use of the vaccine which will be given to children in the first grade only. The amount of vaccine available from the manufacturers will be a major factor in determining whether all 20 selected counties in the state and six districts in New York City will actually take part in the studies. If not enough is available, it will be given to the counties in the order of their listing.

Administrative details for the inoculation are yet to be worked out. It is expected health officers of all participating counties will be briefed at a meeting in the near future. The public will be notified.

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as plans are developed and parents will be informed as to how to file permission for their children. It is not necessary or desirable for parents to contact the health departments at this time.

Must Have Consent

In Ulster County Dr. Dudley W. Hargrave, county health commissioner, estimated there are from 4,500 to 5,500 first, second and third grade children who will be eligible for the vaccine. No vaccine will be administered without written consent of parents.

In the studies to be made, half of all participating children will be given the vaccine and the others will receive an inactive substance instead. This will provide an exact comparison between the polio attack rate among those who receive vaccine and those who do not.

Three Injections

Children receiving the vaccine will receive three injections of one cubic centimeter each. The first two doses will be given at one-week intervals and the third, or booster shot, four weeks later. All injections

will be administered in the arm in the same way shots are given for diphtheria or tetanus.

No one, not even the participating doctors giving the vaccine will know which children receive the vaccine and which the inactive substance.

Not Gamma Globulin

The vaccine is not the gamma globulin which was used quite extensively last summer. The Gamma globulin could provide only temporary immunity (for the few weeks that it remains in the body). This is called passive immunity.

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis will provide the vaccine through funds received in the March of Dimes campaigns.