

Authorities Ready to Administer Polio Vaccine Here in 2 Weeks

A milestone in medical history was reached with the announcement Tuesday that the Salk vaccine was found 80 to 90 per cent effective in preventing paralytic polio in tests last year. The vaccine also is safe and potent, according to spokesmen at Ann Arbor, Mich., center of the nationwide organization which conducted tests on millions of this country's school children last year.

Here in Walden, school and public health authorities disclosed that detailed plans have been formulated for some time to administer the vaccine to additional school children as soon as initial supplies are received. The best estimates set the date for start of inoculations as the week of April 25.

Who Gets Vaccine

Those who will receive the vaccine are all first graders, plus those children in the second, third and fourth grades who got the dummy, or control, vaccine in last year's test. All pupils to be inoculated submitted signed requests from their parents in March and the vaccine has already been ordered, it was disclosed by Mrs. Jeanne Sharp, school nurse.

Administration of the program is under the direction of Dr. John A. Degen, Jr., of Middletown, district state health officer, and the Orange County Medical Society. Dr. Gerhard Kersten, Walden school physician, is chairman of the local program and will be assisted by another village doctor, nurses and other volunteer workers.

Supply Adequate

Dr. Degen said late yesterday that a sufficient supply for the entire area was almost a certainty. He added that although it was now too late for parents to request inoculation of their children with the initial supply of vaccine, he expects a supplementary waiting list to be prepared so that the children can be accommodated as soon as supplies are more adequate. Dr. Degen pointed out that this list still would be only for children in the first four grades.

When questioned on the possibility of only two shots for the children, rather than the three orig-

inally scheduled, Dr. Degen said he hoped to have the answers to this and other questions in a few days. Dr. Jonas Salk, developer of the vaccine, indicated Tuesday that improved manufacturing methods have resulted in a more potent vaccine, which may afford excellent protection with only two inoculations.

Orderly Distribution

Dr. Degen saw an orderly distribution of the vaccine in the area, with little chance for growth of a black market or other illegal operations. The vaccine, now being produced by about six of the nation's larger drug firms, is expected to arrive here in about a week.