

Flu Vaccination

Starting Date Is Still Pending

RALEIGH—In light of the recent action by Congress resolving the liability question concerning swine flu vaccination, North Carolina's program is set to go—except for the starting date, according to Dr. J. N. MacCormack, head of the State's Communicable Disease Control Branch.

"Your guess is as good as mine as to when the vaccine will be available," Dr. MacCormack said. "Indications are that it will be mid-September at the earliest before the vaccine will be available."

The bivalent vaccine immunizes against both A-New Jersey and A-Victoria viruses. This vaccine to be used for people over 65 and those with certain chronic diseases, will probably be available in large quantities first so immunization of this high-risk group can begin at once. The communicable disease specialist said there is still some question as to whether those under 18-years of age will be immunized unless they fall into this group.

The under-65 group will receive the monovalent vaccine, which is the A-New Jersey (swine) type. MacCormack said there is a possibility that each of these vaccines will require two doses for those under 25-years of age. The need for a two-dose schedule will not be known until field tests, currently under way, are complete.

The vaccine will be distributed to county health departments by the Division of Health Services. The vaccination campaign will start in the west and proceed east on a 12-hour, seven-day-a-week schedule until the state is covered. Provided the vaccine is available by mid-September, the target date for completion of the campaign is mid-November.

MacCormack revealed that the campaign will be waged on a regional basis because of the limited number of jet injector vaccine guns available. He said the reasons for starting in the west are to give the eastern counties time to finish harvesting tobacco and to take advantage of the earlier school starting dates in the west.

When questioned regarding some pork producers' concern over calling the A-New Jersey virus swine flu, MacCormack said there is no reason for people to be concerned over the name since catching the disease does not occur from eating pork.

"The reason the virus is referred to as swine flu virus is because it closely resembles a virus that causes influenza in pigs. The concern should be that A-New Jersey flu virus spreads from people-to-people, not from hogs-to-people. The disease is spread by contact with people not from eating food," he cautioned.

For specific information about when and where to go for flu shots, MacCormack advised people to contact their local health department.

Man Breaks Police Department Window

A man was arrested early Saturday morning after he allegedly threw a bottle through a glass in the door leading into Edenton Police Department.

James Carroll Bunch, 30, 209 East Church Street, was charged with malicious damage to real property. He is scheduled to appear in Chowan County District Court on August 24.

CARD OF THANKS
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Robert Lang, nurses and staff of Chowan Hospital and everyone for the flowers, cards and other expressions of kindness shown to me while I was a patient in the hospital and during my convalescence at home.

Merrill Perry

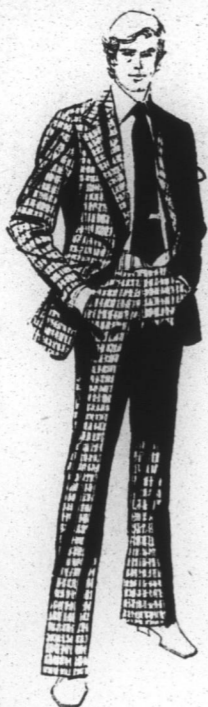
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