

60 Dover pupils on measles list

By NORM SINGLETON

Times-Reporter City Editor

County health officials today called for a stepped up immunization effort in light of an outbreak of nine-day measles in Dover Park Elementary.

A total of 60 measles cases have been recorded at Park since Dec. 20. Twenty students were absent from school Tuesday with the measles.

Acting County Health Director Vivian Stewart stated that the outbreak is beginning at South and Dover Avenue elementaries, also in Dover.

She explained that the Mineral City-New Cumberland areas in the Tuscarawas Valley district have had several reported cases. Few if any have been noted in other school districts, but the outbreak is expected to spread throughout the county, Miss Stewart explained.

Dr. Fred Fevrier, an epidemiologist for the U.S. Public Health Service, and Dr. Fred Cox, a pediatric fellow in infectious disease at Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, joined Miss Stewart Tuesday in examining student health records at Park.

Dr. Fevrier, who noted the work was completed at about 4 p.m., stated the primary concern was whether the vaccine for the 9-day measles had been effective in those students immunized.

"We concluded that the vaccine was protecting those children who have had it, but there are still a large number of students who have not been immunized for measles," Dr. Fevrier explained.

They speculated that some parents, in completing student health forms, may have indicated that their children had the nine-day measles previously when in fact they were uncertain.

The doctors and Miss Stewart urged that children over the age of one who have not had the measles or been vaccinated to receive the vaccine as soon as possible.

Children who were vaccinated in last year's campaign against Rubella or German measles are not protected for nine-day measles, the health officials pointed out.

They cautioned that while side-effects of nine-day measles are somewhat rare, the disease can cause serious problems ranging from middle-ear infection to pneumonia to encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

Miss Stewart recommended that parents first contact their family physicians for immunizations. She added, however, that the health department has the vaccine and will provide free immunizations as long as the supply lasts.

The health department is expecting an additional shipment of the vaccine late this week or early next week to handle. The department is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is located on the Boulevard between Dover and New Philadelphia in the former railway express building.