Plan
to give measles shots to school kids

In the past few years Pennsylvania, and the nation generally, have experienced a new disease phenomenon. For the first time, measles has occurred in epidemic form, not among young children but among those in age group $10-18$ years. This change is, paradoxically, the result of measles immunization: Young children are well immunized and no longer attacked, while older children have either not been immunized or received some of the earlier and weaker batches of vaccine whose protection "wears out" in some children after a period of approximately 10 years.

Regular measles is not a benign disease. The patient is very sick and confined to bed for a period of two weeks; complications in clude bronchitis, pneumon ia and otitis media; en cephalitis occurs in one of every one thousand cases of the disease; for the school children even uncomplicated measles means loss of valuable educational time; unused educational resources represents a loss of millions of dollars to society.

The Department of Health believes that cur rent measles vaccine ad ministered to all susceptible students in middle school, junior and senior high schools would protect the population from the disease and from interruption to their education. Immunity to measles is produced with one injection of the vaccine.

Therefore, the Department of Health and the Department of Education are requesting your assistance in a voluntary nass immunization program against measles. If successfull the program will not need to be repeated. The School District is being asked to send information and consent forms to parents in order to determine the number of students susceptible to measles

The Department of Health, when supplied with this information, will ar range with the school district an appropriate time and place for immunizations.


