

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE ADMINISTRATION OF
ANTITYPHOID VACCINE

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT
Bureau of the Public Health Service
W a s h i n g t o n

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To Medical Officers of the Public Health Service:

The following directions should be observed in immunizing persons against typhoid fever:

The first dose is 1/2 c.c. (7-1/2 m.); the second and third are each 1 c.c. (15 m.). An interval of at least seven days should elapse between doses. This interval may be extended to the fourteenth day in case of necessity, but after that date previous inoculation should not be counted.

The site of the inoculation is the arm at the insertion of the deltoid muscle. If for any reason this site cannot be used, the needle may be introduced in the back, over the lower portion of the scapula, or in the chest below the clavicle. The dose is to be given subcutaneously, and not into the muscle nor into the skin. The arm should be cleansed as for any other operation. Tincture of iodine painted over the dry skin, before and after the injection, has proved satisfactory.

The ampule should be washed off in an antiseptic solution and opened after making one or more cuts near the top with a file. The vaccine can be drawn out of the container with a syringe, or it may be emptied into a shallow glass dish such as a salt cellar which has been sterilized by boiling.

The syringe and needle should be sterilized by boiling in two per cent soda solution. To insure perfect sterilization, draw the piston out to its full length, or remove it entirely, so that the barrel is full of water during the boiling. A fresh needle should be used for each person, or, if one needle must be used on two or more persons, it should be re-sterilized before each injection.

No person should be immunized who is not perfectly healthy and free from fever. The temperature should be taken before immunization is begun, and, in doubtful cases, the urine should be examined; if fever or any other symptoms of illness are present, the procedure should be postponed. Neither beer nor alcohol in any form should be drunk on the day of treatment. The prophylactic is borne well by children, and by women, and doses proportionate to the body weight should be used. Women should not be given the first dose during or near the time of the menstrual period.

The most suitable time for the administration is about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, as the greatest part of the reaction is then over before morning. There is usually some headache and malaise, and a local reaction consisting of a red and tender area about the size of the palm of the hand and sometimes tenderness in the axillary glands. Rarely marked general reactions occur - headache, backache, nausea, vomiting, herpes labialis, occasionally albuminuria and some loss of body weight. The number of such reactions is exceedingly small, and, regardless of their severity, they as a rule disappear inside of 48 hours.

Antityphoid vaccine may be obtained by sending a requisition for the desired amount to the Director of the Hygienic Laboratory, P.H.S., Washington, D.C. Glass syringes and needles may be obtained from the Purveying Depot, P.H.S., 1414 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

A. H. GLENNAN

Acting Surgeon General.