

# Grant to Combat Dangerous Rubella

JUNEAU—Governor Keith H. Miller announced this week that a grant in the amount of \$137,879 has been made by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to the State of Alaska for immunizations primarily to prevent rubella, also known as the German measles or the three day measles.

The initial phase of the rubella immunization project will begin in the Fairbanks area. After the Fairbanks area immunization, State Public Health personnel will continue the program in the villages and outlying communities.

Although a mild disease, rubella is highly contagious. When contracted by pregnant women, undesirable results frequently occur for the unborn child.

Clinically established facts show that women who contract the disease during the first three

months of pregnancy stand a 16 per cent chance of having a miscarriage or still birth and a 17 per cent chance of giving birth to a defective child.

The rubella vaccine creates a lifelong immunity to the disease.

Governor Miller urged parents to have their children inoculated, particularly those children from the ages of one to 12.

It is this age group that is most susceptible and most likely to expose expectant mothers to the disease.