

VD Situation In Alaska Not Enviably Says Health Dept.

The Venereal Disease situation on the Alaska scene is an unenviable one indeed. Since 1964, the number of cases of gonorrhea reported to the Health Department has increased about 70%.

Since a great number of the infected patients continue to be teenagers, the State and local health agencies are convinced that VD education in the schools is the best way to reach teenagers with an effective preventive program.

Since the teaching of VD education in the schools has long been a controversial subject, the much needed inclusion of such material in the school systems of cities such as Fairbanks and Anchorage has by necessity proceeded at a snails pace.

Educators, however, in the past few years have realized that ignorance is not always bliss particularly when the subject is VD.

In recognition of the need for the inclusion of a viable and integrated VD education

program within the curriculum, educators in Fairbanks and Anchorage are now planning to introduce a workable course by September 1966.

The germs which cause syphilis and gonorrhea are just as deadly as the germs which cause diphtheria and tetanus with the exception of the fact that through the use of vaccines we are able to immunize against these diseases.

Thus far, no vaccine which would immunize against syphilis and gonorrhea has been developed except perhaps the "vaccine" of education.