

Course 154

6. Control of Communicable Diseases

Historically, control of communicable diseases was the first activity of the health department.

a. Organization

In the larger departments, there is usually a bureau or division in which all of the work is centered, and in some cases a separate division for tuberculosis and venereal diseases. In smaller departments the work is organized under control of health officer or someone having other duties as well as control of communicable diseases.

(1) Field Force

- (a) Medical inspectors
- (b) Public health nurses
- (c) Quarantine officers

b. Procedure

- (1) Legal. Action based upon State regulations and local ordinances.
- (2) Notification by card or phone.
- (3) Investigation of cases (Epidemiology)
- (4) Quarantine and isolation.
- (5) Campaigns against specific diseases
 - (a) Tuberculosis
 - (b) Venereal diseases
 - (c) Typhoid
 - (d) Diphtheria

7. Child Hygiene

The modern conception of an adequate child hygiene program includes provision for pre-natal, and obstetrical care, infant welfare, pre-school and school hygiene.

By means of such a program we may hope to lessen stillbirth, increase the vitality of children born alive, safeguard them through the most dangerous periods of their lives, correct their disabling defects, and to pass the larger proportion of them on to the schools in good condition, and finally to graduate them from schools better able physically to carry on the business of living.

a. Pre-natal Service

The results reflected in our infant mortality rates indicate the need for adequate facilities for pre-natal care for all mothers, either by private physicians or clinics.

b. Maternity Service

The high maternal mortality in U.S. can only be reduced by improvement in quality and availability of good obstetrical service.