

# Willowbrook Trial Set For Measles Vaccine

A team of scientists from the New York University Medical Center shortly will start a series of tests among 1,500 children at Willowbrook State School to determine the effectiveness of a new anti-measles vaccine. The project will parallel tests to be

carried on at the same time in Nigeria on the west coast of Africa.

Details of the large-scale tests were announced today by the city's Health Research Council, which has approved a \$159,885 research grant for the purpose. Dr. George S. Mirick, the council's scientific director, said the Board of Estimate will be asked to approve the expenditure this Thursday.

The project will follow-up successful preliminary tests made earlier this year among 48 children at the Willowbrook institution.

The same vaccine, developed by Dr. John F. Enders, Harvard Medical School virologist and Nobel Prize winner, was tested at Sea View Hospital this year, with promising results.

The tests and studies in Nigeria and at Willowbrook will be under the direction of Dr. Enders; Dr. Saul Krugman, chairman of the pediatrics departments at the NYU Medical Center, and Dr. Samuel Katz of Harvard Medical School.

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EARLY TESTING, said Dr. Krugman, indicates that the Enders vaccine does prevent measles. But he added:

"The vaccine will require additional study before being released for general use. Thousands and thousands more vaccinations will have to be carried out under controlled conditions.

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But the prospects for the future are very encouraging."

Dr. Krugman supervised the preliminary tests at Willowbrook, where in one school ward with 46 children 23 were given injections of Enders measles vaccine and 23 others were not.

In a subsequent measles outbreak, none of the 23 vaccinated children got the disease and 17 of the 23 in the other group came down with it. In an adjacent ward, 30 of 50 children were stricken with measles.

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ABOUT 1,500 children will be injected with their parents' consent. In Nigeria, some 4,000 children will participate in the tests.

The Nigeria tests will be carried on at the Wesley Guild Hospital in Ilesha.

Dr. Enders was awarded the

Nobel Prize in 1954 for work that made possible development of the Salk and other anti-polio vaccines.

Salk anti-polio vaccine is made with dead virus and the Enders anti-measles vaccine is composed of attenuated ("live") virus. Both vaccines induce the body to produce antibodies to the disease, thus preventing the disease from developing.