

State School Aide Awarded Grant

A Willowbrook State School researcher has been named principal recipient of a \$22,567 federal grant awarded to the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene in Albany.

He is Nathan W. Penn, associate research scientist at the neuro-endocrine research unit at Willowbrook.

Penn, who is a bio-chemist, is engaged in research into the effect of ribonucleic acid on memory.

The grant, which was awarded by the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, was announced by the office of Rep. John M. Murphy, Staten Island Democrat.

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Vaccine Seen Ending Measles

By SANDRA FREED

If measles vaccine were given to all children before they entered school, it would be possible to eliminate measles as a disease.

This is the prediction of a New York Medical College researcher, Dr. Saul Krugman. Dr. Krugman bases his prediction partially research done at Willowbrook State School since 1962.

Dr. Krugman made the disclosure in a taped interview of a program, "Research Project," to be broadcast today at 3:30 p.m. on WNBC-TV.

In the interview, Dr. Krugman emphasized the dangers that can result from measles.

"There are some children who, following measles, develop complications such as otitis media, a middle ear infection which may progress to mastoiditis. There are some who develop pneumonia, especially serious to infants, but the most dreadful complication is encephalitis, inflammation of the brain.

Encephalitis occurs rarely, he said. But when it does occur, it can cause death; or, if the child recovers, severe brain damage.

Dr. Krugman described his studies, sponsored by the Health Research Council of New York and carried out in three areas in New York City, including Willowbrook.

"It was natural for the first trials to be carried out in institutions for mentally retarded children because it is well known that to such children measles is a highly fatal disease," Dr. Krugman said.

"Since 1962, in Willowbrook State School, 1,500 children have received the vaccine. If measles had occurred, there would have been 100 to 150 deaths. There hasn't been a single case of measles."

Measles vaccine was licensed in March, 1963. Since that time, some 18 million doses have been used in children in the United States, it was stated during the program.