

against them.

Since there is little risk a Type B hepatitis carrier will actually transmit hepatitis, they fear that these children could be discriminated against merely because they're different from other children.

"The separate-but-equal doctrine (barring different educational standards for black and white children) was declared unconstitutional in 1954," a Willowbrook parent pointed out, "and here we are again."

Dr. Olive Pitkin, director of the bureau of school health for the Department of Health, said yesterday she hopes that within one month the city will have fully defined guidelines to deal with a problem bound to become increasingly more difficult as Willowbrook and other institutions try to place more and more children in public schools.

"It is a difficult and emotional issue," Dr. Pitkin said, "and we've got to try to place the needs of one against the needs of the many."

She explained the estimated 20 hepatitis carriers in the city's schools were identified from Willowbrook medical records, but said the number was undoubtedly higher than that.

Frank Kelly, principal of PS 69, has sent a letter to parents asking them to attend an informational meeting tonight at 7:30 in the school to discuss the subject of hepatitis carriers.

Dr. Gerald Spielman, director of the Staten Island Council on Developmental Disabilities, will address the parents, some of whom admit to being ignorant about the low risk involved.

He said he will attempt to explain to them that through the proper hygienic precautions, there is no reason for them to worry.

"We want to listen and we want to hear from the experts. And we don't want to make our minds up before the meeting starts," said Roberta Spivelman, president of PS 69's Parent-Teacher Association.

It was pointed out by Dr. Spielman and other physicians contacted by the Advance yesterday that there have been Type B hepatitis carriers in the New York school system for years — but that no "informational meetings" were held until now, the first time retarded individuals have become involved.

The experts noted there is a second type of hepatitis, Type A or infectious, **which is different and more serious than Type B and against which Willowbrook's retarded residents have been proved immune.**

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