

and health factors equally.

The Health Department guidelines, according to Dr. Lloyd Novick, a deputy commissioner, attempt to deal with "numerous problems in management during the past year," which included, he said, the potential for spread of the disease in a high risk population.

Those skillfully worded guidelines, forwarded to the Board of Education last month and made public this week, ask that:

¶ The city confirm carrier status of the 37 youngsters now enrolled in city schools by giving them blood tests, to be repeated regularly;

¶ The estimated 300 children who have been in classroom contact with a carrier child be urged to submit to blood tests to determine whether they are carriers or susceptible;

¶ Parents of susceptible children be offered the option of having their children placed in separate classes free of

contact with carriers or possible carriers;

¶ Parents of susceptible children also be offered separate lunchroom areas, separate equipment, separate toilet items and separate busing for their children;

¶ For children entering the city school system in the future — following residence in an institution of high hepatitis incidence, a medical report be reviewed by the Health Department, which would decide where the child would be placed;

¶ Teachers and aides in close contact with carrier children be advised of the facts concerning transmission of Hepatitis B, and offered testing. The teachers should be given the option of requesting transfer if they are found to be susceptible.

If the guidelines are adopted, Dr. Novick said, health officials would begin surveying affected schools sometime in the spring, explaining the voluntary testing program and allaying "some un-

founded fears parents have" as typified in the PS 69 case.

He stressed that Hepatitis B, primarily spread through the blood or blood products, can be avoided through the proper hygienic precautions.

But Novick also pointed out that the severely mentally retarded person who is a carrier, unlike carriers in the general population, often have difficulty taking care of themselves.

"This solution we've proposed," Novick said "attempts to be cognizant of the rights of the individual, while emphasizing the public health."

He noted that the guidelines stress the voluntary — by giving parents of susceptible children the option of requesting their children's transfer from carrier classes.

But for the carrier child, who can remain so for many years or even life, there are really no such options under the proposed guidelines, Novick admitted.