

TERRITORY OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AGAÑA, GUAM 96910
U. S. A.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 88-27

RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHING A HEPATITIS B
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B is a serious disease which affects the liver, and is caused by the Hepatitis B virus; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B virus infection is present in islands of the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, Hepatitis B infection frequently leads to the development of a chronic carrier state which has severe medical, personal and economic consequences; and

WHEREAS, those who are infected at a very young age are prone to develop very serious liver disease, such as cirrhosis and liver cancer; and

WHEREAS, vaccination of infants and children is an effective strategy to prevent Hepatitis B virus infection; and

WHEREAS, a large donation of Hepatitis B (HB) vaccine has been donated by Merck, Sharpe and Dohme, for use in the Pacific Islands during the next twelve months; and

WHEREAS, the Pacific Island Health Officers Association, representing the Pacific island jurisdictions of the Republic of Belau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, the Republic of the Marshalls, American Samoa, and the Territory of Guam, are participating in the Hepatitis B Vaccination Program for infants and children; and

WHEREAS, the Hepatitis B Vaccination Program is a collaborative effort of U.S. Public Health Service Region IX and Centers for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Interior, the State of Hawaii Department of Health and the Pacific island jurisdictions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH F. ADA, Governor of the Territory of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, do hereby order that:


1. The Department of Public Health and Social Services spearhead the Hepatitis B Vaccination Program for newborns and children on Guam.

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2. All appropriate agencies such as the Department of Education, and Guam Memorial Hospital, render to the Department of Public Health and Social Services, all necessary support and resources necessary to carry out the objectives of the project.
3. The Department of Public Health and Social Services shall seek support and assistance from the civilian and military medical communities for successful implementation of the Project and the protection of our children's health.
4. The Department of Public Health and Social Services seek means of continuing the program on an ongoing basis.

Signed and promulgated at Agana, Guam, this 4TH day of OCTOBER, 1988.


JOSEPH F. ADA
Governor of Guam

COUNTERSIGNED:



FRANK F. BLAS
Lieutenant Governor of Guam