

**The original documents are located in Box 120, folder “Polio Vaccine” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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September 14, 1976

SUBJECT:

POLIO VACCINE

The Post this morning has a story by Stuart Auerbach stating that there is a major shortage of polio vaccine for the states because one drug manufacturer, Lederle Laboratories, is insisting that every dispenser of the vaccine require the parent of the child being vaccinated to sign a written release to prevent lawsuits against the manufacturers.

Is the President concerned about the shortage of vaccine for children as the school year begins, and doesn't he feel that this is at least as important as the swine flu program?

GUIDANCE:

The President is of course concerned that enough vaccine be available to take care of all those who might be susceptible to the disease, and I understand that is also precisely the intent of the Public Health Service, which has been dealing with this issue for some time now.

It is my understanding that the PHS, headed by Dr. Theodore Cooper, has been aware of the drug manufacturers' concerns for several months, and they will do whatever possible to protect the public against the reemergence of this terrible disease. (They are currently working with the drug manufacturers and the states.)

ME