

2010 No. 1546 (W. 144)

PUBLIC HEALTH, WALES

**The Health Protection
(Notification) (Wales) Regulations
2010**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations apply in Wales. They place obligations on various persons to disclose information to specified third parties for the purpose of preventing, protecting against, controlling or providing a public health response to the incidence or spread of infection or contamination.

Regulation 2 obliges registered medical practitioners to notify the proper officer of the relevant local authority if a patient they are attending is believed to have a disease listed in Schedule 1 or is otherwise infected or contaminated in a way that may cause significant harm to others. Regulation 3 extends this obligation to cover notification of suspected disease, infection or contamination in a dead body.

Regulation 4 obliges the operators of diagnostic laboratories to notify the proper officer of the relevant local authority if they identify a causative agent listed in Schedule 2, or evidence of such an agent, in a human sample. Regulation 5 enables the proper officer to approach the person who solicited the laboratory test for certain information not provided by the operator of the diagnostic laboratory and obliges that person to provide the information where known.

Regulation 6 obliges the proper officer to disclose notifications under regulations 2, 3 or 4 to other specified bodies with a health protection role.

Regulation 7 enables specified documents to be sent electronically where certain conditions are met.

Regulation 8 revokes 2 sets of regulations.

A regulatory impact assessment has been prepared as to the likely costs and benefits of complying with these

Regulations. A copy can be obtained from the Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.

2010 No. 1546 (W. 144)

PUBLIC HEALTH, WALES

**The Health Protection
(Notification) (Wales) Regulations
2010**

Made 8 June 2010

Laid before the National Assembly for Wales
10 June 2010

Coming into force

*for the purpose of all
regulations except
regulation 4* 26 July 2010

*for the purpose of
regulation 4* 1 October 2010

The Welsh Ministers make the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 13, 45C(1), (2) and (3)(a), 45F(2)(a) and (b), 45P(2) and 60A of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984⁽¹⁾.

In accordance with section 45Q(3) of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984, the Welsh Ministers declare that they are of the opinion that these Regulations do not contain any provision made by virtue of section 45C(3)(c) of that Act which imposes or enables the imposition of a special restriction or requirement or any other restriction or requirement

(1) 1984 c.22. Functions of the Secretary of State under section 13, so far as exercisable in relation to Wales, were transferred to the National Assembly for Wales by S.I. 1999/672 and thereafter transferred to the Welsh Ministers by paragraph 30 of Schedule 11 to the Government of Wales Act 2006 (2006 c.32).

See section 45T(6) of that Act for the definition of “the appropriate Minister”. Sections 45C, 45F, 45P and 45T were inserted into that Act by section 129 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (c.14) (“the 2008 Act”) and section 60A was inserted into the Act by section 130 and Schedule 11, paragraph 16 of the 2008 Act.

which has or would have a significant effect on a person's rights.

Title, commencement and application

1.—(1) The title of these Regulations is the Health Protection (Notification) (Wales) Regulations 2010 and they come into force—

- (a) for the purposes of all regulations except regulation 4 on 26 July 2010; and
- (b) for the purposes of regulation 4 on 1 October 2010.

(2) These Regulations apply in relation to Wales.

Duty to notify suspected disease, infection or contamination in patients

2.—(1) A registered medical practitioner (R) must notify the proper officer⁽¹⁾ of the relevant local authority where R has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a patient (P) whom R is attending—

- (a) has a notifiable disease;
- (b) has an infection⁽²⁾ which, in the view of R, presents or could present significant harm to human health; or
- (c) is contaminated⁽³⁾ in a manner which, in the view of R, presents or could present significant harm to human health.

(2) The notification must include the following information insofar as it is known to R—

- (a) P's name, date of birth and sex;
- (b) P's home address including postcode;
- (c) P's current residence (if not home address);
- (d) P's telephone number;
- (e) P's NHS number;
- (f) P's occupation;
- (g) the name, address and postcode of P's place of work or education (if R considers it relevant);
- (h) P's relevant overseas travel history;
- (i) P's ethnicity;
- (j) contact details for a parent of P (where P is a child);

(1) See section 74 of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 (c.22) ("the 1984 Act") for the definition of "proper officer".

(2) See section 45A of the 1984 Act for the interpretation of "infection".

(3) See section 45A of the 1984 Act for the interpretation of "contamination" and related expressions.

- (k) the disease or infection which P has or is suspected of having or the nature of P's contamination or suspected contamination;
- (l) the date of onset of P's symptoms;
- (m) the date of R's diagnosis; and
- (n) R's name, address and telephone number.

(3) The notification must be provided in writing within 3 days beginning with the day on which R forms a suspicion under paragraph (1).

(4) Without prejudice to paragraph (3), if R considers that the case is urgent, notification must be provided orally as soon as reasonably practicable.

(5) In determining whether the case is urgent, R must have regard to—

- (a) the nature of the suspected disease, infection or contamination;
- (b) the ease of spread of that disease, infection or contamination;
- (c) the ways in which the spread of the disease, infection or contamination can be prevented or controlled; and
- (d) P's circumstances (including age, sex and occupation).

(6) This regulation does not apply where R reasonably believes that the proper officer of the relevant local authority has already been notified with regard to P and the suspected disease, infection or contamination by another registered medical practitioner in accordance with this regulation.

(7) In this regulation—

“child” (*“plentyn”*) means a person under the age of 18 years;

“notifiable disease” (*“clefyd hysbysadwy”*) means a disease or syndrome listed in Schedule 1;

“parent” (*“rhiant”*) has the meaning given to it by section 576 of the Education Act 1996⁽¹⁾; and

“relevant local authority” (*“awdurdod lleol perthnasol”*) means the local authority within whose area R attended P on the occasion of forming a suspicion under paragraph (1).

Duty to notify suspected disease, infection or contamination in dead persons

3.—(1) A registered medical practitioner (R) must notify the proper officer of the relevant local authority where R has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person (P) whom R is attending has died whilst—

- (a) infected with a notifiable disease;

(1) 1996 c.56.

- (b) infected with a disease which, in the view of R, presents or could present, or presented or could have presented (whilst P was alive), significant harm to human health; or
- (c) contaminated in a manner which, in the view of R, presents or could present, or presented or could have presented (when P was alive), significant harm to human health.

(2) The notification must include the following information insofar as it is known to R—

- (a) P's name, date of birth and sex;
- (b) P's date of death;
- (c) P's home address including postcode;
- (d) P's place of residence at time of death (if different from home address);
- (e) P's NHS number;
- (f) P's occupation at time of death (if R considers it relevant);
- (g) the name, address and postcode of P's place of work or education at time of death (if R considers it relevant);
- (h) P's relevant overseas travel history;
- (i) P's ethnicity;
- (j) the disease or infection which P had or is suspected of having had or the nature of P's contamination or suspected contamination;
- (k) the date of onset of P's symptoms;
- (l) the date of R's diagnosis; and
- (m) R's name, address and telephone number.

(3) The notification must be provided in writing within 3 days beginning with the day on which R forms a suspicion under paragraph (1).

(4) Without prejudice to paragraph (3), if R considers that the case is urgent, notification must be provided orally as soon as reasonably practicable.

(5) In determining whether the case is urgent, R must have regard to—

- (a) the nature of the suspected disease, infection or contamination;
- (b) the ease of spread of that disease, infection or contamination;
- (c) the ways in which the spread of the disease, infection or contamination can be prevented or controlled; and
- (d) P's circumstances (including age, sex and occupation).

(6) This regulation does not apply where R reasonably believes that the proper officer of the relevant local authority has already been notified with regard to P and the suspected disease, infection or

contamination by another registered medical practitioner in accordance with this regulation or regulation 2(1).

(7) In this regulation—

“notifiable disease” (“*clefyd hysbysadwy*”) has the same meaning it has in regulation 2; and

“relevant local authority” (“*awdurdod lleol perthnasol*”) means the local authority within whose area R attended P on the occasion of forming a suspicion under paragraph (1).

Duty to notify causative agents found in human samples

4.—(1) The operator of a diagnostic laboratory must notify the proper officer of the relevant local authority in accordance with this regulation where the diagnostic laboratory identifies a causative agent in a human sample.

(2) The notification must include the following information insofar as it is known to the operator of the diagnostic laboratory—

- (a) name and address of the diagnostic laboratory;
- (b) details of the causative agent identified;
- (c) date of the sample;
- (d) nature of the sample;
- (e) name of person (P) from whom the sample was taken;
- (f) P’s date of birth and sex;
- (g) P’s current home address including postcode;
- (h) P’s current residence (if not home address);
- (i) P’s ethnicity;
- (j) P’s NHS number; and
- (k) the name, address and organisation of the person who solicited the test which identified the causative agent.

(3) The notification must be provided in writing within 7 days beginning with the day on which the causative agent is identified.

(4) Without prejudice to paragraph (3), if the operator of the diagnostic laboratory considers that the case is urgent, the notification must be provided orally as soon as reasonably practicable.

(5) In determining whether the case is urgent, the operator of the diagnostic laboratory must have regard to—

- (a) the nature of the causative agent;
- (b) the nature of the disease which the causative agent causes;

- (c) the ease of spread of the causative agent;
- (d) the ways in which the spread of the causative agent can be prevented or controlled; and
- (e) where known, P's circumstances (including age, sex and occupation).

(6) This regulation does not apply where the operator of the diagnostic laboratory reasonably believes that the proper officer of the relevant local authority has already been notified in accordance with this regulation by the operator of another diagnostic laboratory in relation to the same causative agent being found in a sample from the same person.

(7) For the purposes of paragraph (1), a diagnostic laboratory identifies a causative agent where—

- (a) the diagnostic laboratory identifies the causative agent; or
- (b) the causative agent is identified by another laboratory under an arrangement with that diagnostic laboratory.

(8) Where paragraph (7)(b) applies, the day on which the causative agent is identified for the purposes of paragraph (3), is the day on which the diagnostic laboratory became aware of the identification by the other laboratory.

(9) It is an offence for the operator of a diagnostic laboratory to fail without reasonable excuse to comply with this regulation.

(10) Any person who commits an offence under this regulation is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

(11) In this regulation—

“causative agent” (*“cyfrwng achosol”*) means—

- (a) a causative agent listed in Schedule 2, or
- (b) evidence of an infection caused by such an agent;

“diagnostic laboratory” (*“labordy diagnostig”*) means an institution (or facility within an institution) which is equipped with apparatus and reagents for the performance of diagnostic tests for human infections;

“director of a diagnostic laboratory” (*“cyfarwyddwr labordy diagnostig”*) means—

- (a) the clinical microbiologist, consultant pathologist or other registered medical practitioner or other person in charge of a diagnostic laboratory; or
- (b) any other person working in the diagnostic laboratory to whom the function of making a notification under this regulation has been delegated by the person mentioned in subparagraph (a);

“operator of a diagnostic laboratory” (“*gweithredwr labordy diagnostig*”) means the corporate body that operates the diagnostic laboratory or, if there is no such body, the director of the diagnostic laboratory; and

“relevant local authority” (“*awdurdod lleol perthnasol*”) means the local authority within whose area the organisation of the person who solicited the test which identified the causative agent is situated.

Duty to provide information to the proper officer

5.—(1) This regulation applies where a notification has been made by the operator of a diagnostic laboratory to the proper officer under regulation 4.

(2) The proper officer may request that the person (R) who solicited the laboratory test which identified the causative agent to which the notification relates, provide to him or her the information listed at regulation 4(2) insofar as that information was not included in the notification.

(3) R must provide the information requested under paragraph (2) insofar as it is known to R.

(4) The information must be provided in writing within 3 days beginning with the day on which the request is made.

(5) Without prejudice to paragraph (4), if the proper officer considers the case to be urgent and informs R of this fact when making the request, the information must be provided orally as soon as reasonably practicable.

(6) In determining whether the case is urgent, the proper officer must have regard to—

- (a) the nature of the causative agent to which the notification relates;
- (b) the nature of the disease which the causative agent causes;
- (c) the ease of spread of the causative agent;
- (d) the ways in which the spread of the causative agent can be prevented or controlled; and
- (e) where known, the circumstances of the person from whom the sample was taken (including age, sex and occupation).

(7) In this regulation, “causative agent” (“*cyfrwng achosol*”) has the same meaning it has in regulation 4(11).

Duty on the proper officer to disclose notifications to others

6.—(1) This regulation applies where the proper officer has received a notification under regulation 2, 3 or 4.

(2) The proper officer must disclose the fact of the notification and its contents to—

- (a) the Public Health Wales National Health Service Trust⁽¹⁾;
- (b) the proper officer of the local authority in whose area P usually resides (if different); and
- (c) the proper officer of the port health authority or local authority in whose district or area a ship, hovercraft, aircraft or international train is or was situated from which P has disembarked (if known to the disclosing proper officer and if that officer considers disclosure appropriate).

(3) The disclosure must be made in writing within 3 days beginning with the day that the proper officer receives the notification.

(4) Without prejudice to paragraph (3), if the disclosing proper officer considers that the case is urgent, disclosure must be made orally as soon as reasonably practicable.

(5) In determining whether a case is urgent, the disclosing proper officer must have regard to—

- (a) the nature of the disease, infection or contamination or the suspected disease, infection or contamination notified;
- (b) the ease of spread of the disease, infection or contamination;
- (c) the ways in which the spread of the disease, infection or contamination can be prevented or controlled; and
- (d) where known, P's circumstances (including age, sex and occupation).

Electronic communications

7.—(1) This regulation applies to—

- (a) notifications provided under regulations 2(1), 3(1) and 4(1);
- (b) information provided under regulation 5(3);
- (c) disclosures made under regulation 6(2);
- (d) lists provided under regulation 3 (requirement to provide details of children attending school) of the Health Protection (Local

(1) Public Health Wales National Health Service Trust was established by S.I. 2009/2058 (W.177).

Authority Powers) (Wales) Regulations 2010⁽¹⁾; and

- (e) reports provided under regulations 10(1) (duty to report Part 2A applications) and 11(1) (duty to report variations or revocations of Part 2A orders) of the Health Protection (Part 2A Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2010⁽²⁾.

(2) Notifications, information, disclosures, lists and reports, which are required to be in writing, may be communicated electronically if—

- (a) the recipient has consented in writing to receiving the notification, information, disclosure, list or report (as the case may be) by an electronic communication; and
- (b) the communication is sent to the number or address specified by the recipient when giving that consent.

Revocations

- 8.** The Regulations listed in Schedule 3 are revoked.

Edwina Hart

Minister for Health and Social Services, one of the
Welsh Ministers

8 June 2010

(1) S.I. 2010/1545 (W.143).
(2) S.I. 2010/1544 (W.142).

SCHEDULE 1

Regulations 2(7) and 3(7)

Notifiable Diseases And Syndromes

Anthrax
Botulism
Brucellosis
Cholera
Diphtheria
Encephalitis (acute)
Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever)
Food poisoning
Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)
Infectious bloody diarrhoea
Infectious hepatitis (acute)
Invasive group A streptococcal disease and scarlet fever
Legionnaires' Disease
Leprosy
Malaria
Measles
Meningitis (acute)
Meningococcal septicaemia
Mumps
Plague
Poliomyelitis (acute)
Rabies
Rubella
SARS
Smallpox
Tetanus
Tuberculosis
Typhus
Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF)
Whooping cough
Yellow fever

SCHEDULE 2

Regulations 4(11) and 5(7)

Causative Agents

Bacillus anthracis
Bacillus cereus (only if associated with food poisoning)
Bordetella pertussis
Borrelia spp
Brucella spp
Burkholderia mallei
Burkholderia pseudomallei
Campylobacter spp
Chikungunya virus
Chlamydomphila psittaci
Clostridium botulinum
Clostridium perfringens (only if associated with food poisoning)
Clostridium tetani
Corynebacterium diphtheriae
Corynebacterium ulcerans
Coxiella burnetii
Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus
Cryptosporidium spp
Dengue virus
Ebola virus
Entamoeba histolytica
Francisella tularensis
Giardia lamblia
Guanarito virus
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive)
Hanta virus
Hepatitis A, B, C, delta, and E viruses
Influenza virus
Junin virus
Kyasanur Forest disease virus
Lassa virus
Legionella spp
Leptospira interrogans
Listeria monocytogenes
Machupo virus
Marburg virus
Measles virus
Mumps virus
Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex
Neisseria meningitidis
Omsk haemorrhagic fever virus

Plasmodium falciparum, vivax, ovale, malariae, knowlesi
Polio virus (wild or vaccine types)
Rabies virus (classical rabies) and rabies-related lyssaviruses
Rickettsia spp
Rift Valley fever virus
Rubella virus
Sabia virus
Salmonella spp
SARS coronavirus
Shigella spp
Streptococcus pneumoniae (invasive)
Streptococcus pyogenes (invasive)
Varicella zoster virus
Variola virus
Verocytotoxic *Escherichia coli* (including *E.coli* O157)
Vibrio cholerae
West Nile Virus
Yellow fever virus
Yersinia pestis

SCHEDULE 3

Regulation 8

Revocations

1. The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925(1).
2. The Public Health (Infections Diseases) Regulations 1988(2).

(1) S.I. 1925/757.
(2) S.I. 1988/1546.