

The National Board of Health and Welfare



Implementing International Health Regulations in Sweden

- The International Health Regulations were implemented into Swedish law June 15th 2007.
Act on protection against international threats to public health
- More detailed regulation was issued by the National Board of Health and Welfare
- The act is complementary to existing regulation concerning control of communicable diseases and the management of chemical and radioactive threats

Definitions

- The Act defines a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) as “an infectious agent or other substance that can be considered a serious threat against human health with the potential of international spread”.
- Diseases considered to be hazardous to society according to the Communicable Disease Act (currently smallpox and SARS) should always be considered a PHEIC.

Notification and information

- The National Board of Health and Welfare is the National IHR Focal Point
- Municipal, county or national authorities that receive information concerning a suspected PHEIC are obliged to immediately notify the National Board of Health and Welfare.

Designated ports and airports

- 9 ports and 5 airports
- They were earlier quarantine ports and airports
- Municipalities and counties with designated ports and airports should plan their activities to ensure that such ports and airports have necessary staff and equipment for control of
 - passengers,
 - means of transport
 - luggage
 - other goods
 - animals

Ship sanitation control

- Environment and Health Offices in 51 municipalities are authorized to issue
 - Ship Sanitation Control Certificates
 - Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificates
- The officer in charge of a a ship must present a ship sanitation certificate to the customs office or the coastguard on request.

Health declaration

- From the officer in charge of a ship or airplane arriving in Sweden
- Provide information about the health situation on board if
 - a person on board has fallen ill and symptoms indicate a serious infection disease.

The National Board of Health and Welfare

- National Focal Point
- Mandated to issue binding regulations to implement the Act in more detail
- ✓ Designating ports and airports
- ✓ Designating local authorities with the right to issue sanitation certificates
- ✓ Requirements for contingency planning for designated ports and airports
- ✓ Detailed regulations concerning health declarations and sanitation certificates

Evaluation spring 2009

- Evaluate Sweden's capacity to manage Public Health Emergencies of International Concern in accordance with the requirements of IHR 2005
- Sweden has a good capacity for managing events that may constitute a PHEIC
- Identified weaknesses
 - the knowledge of the legislation is poor
 - evaluate how we have been able to use IHR in the management of the pandemic influenza A(H1N1)

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