



Haraldur Briem  
Chief Epidemiologist



## Evolution of the International Health Regulations

- The cholera epidemics that hit Europe in 1830 and 1847 made apparent the need for international cooperation in public health
- The European Health Council was consequently established in Constantinople in 1829 – the threat was considered coming from the Middle East
- The first International Sanitary Regulations were adapted at the International Sanitary Conference in Paris in 1851



## Evolution of the International Health Regulations

- The 22 World Health Assembly (1969) adopted, revised, and consolidated the International Sanitary Regulations and was renamed the International Health Regulations 1969.
- The 26 World Health Assembly in 1973 amended the IHR 1969 in relation to provisions regarding cholera
- The 34 World Health Assembly in 1981 amended the IHR 1969 to exclude smallpox in the list of notifiable diseases due to global eradication of smallpox,



## The new IHR

- During the Forty-Eighth World Health Assembly in 1995, WHO and Member States resolved the need to revise the IHR 1969. The revision of IHR 1969 came about because of its inherent limitations, most notably:
  - narrow scope of notifiable diseases (cholera, plague, yellow fever).
  - dependence on official country notification
  - lack of a formal internationally coordinated mechanism to prevent the international spread of disease.





## REVISED INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (IHR)

Agreed upon the 58 World Health Assembly in May  
2005

Binding International Convention in 15 June 2007



## The Scope of the IHR

- to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.
- global health security:
  - epidemic alert and response,
  - global public health response to natural occurrence, accidental release or deliberate use of biological and chemical agents or radio nuclear material that affect health, to the need to ensure global public health



## National IHR Focal Point

- National IHR Focal Point” means the national centre, designated by each State Party, which shall be accessible at all times for communications with WHO IHR Contact Points under these Regulations
- “WHO IHR Contact Point” means the unit within WHO which shall be accessible at all times for communications with the National IHR Focal Point.



## THE NEW INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS

- PART I – DEFINITIONS, PURPOSE AND SCOPE, RINCIPLES AND RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES
- PART II – INFORMATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE
- PART III – RECOMMENDATIONS
- PART IV – POINTS OF ENTRY
- PART V – PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES
- PART VI – HEALTH DOCUMENTS
- PART VII – CHARGES
- PART VIII – GENERAL PROVISIONS
- PART IX – THE IHR ROSTER OF EXPERTS, THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE AND THE REVIEW COMMITTEE
- PART X – FINAL PROVISIONS



## ANNEXES TO THE IHR

- ANNEX 1
- A. CORE CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE
- B. CORE CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATED AIRPORTS, PORTS AND GROUND CROSSINGS
- ANNEX 2
- DECISION INSTRUMENT FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND NOTIFICATION OF EVENTS THAT MAY CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN
- ANNEX 3
- MODEL SHIP SANITATION CONTROL EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE/SHIP SANITATION CONTROL CERTIFICATE
- ANNEX 4
- TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO CONVEYANCES AND CONVEYANCE OPERATORS

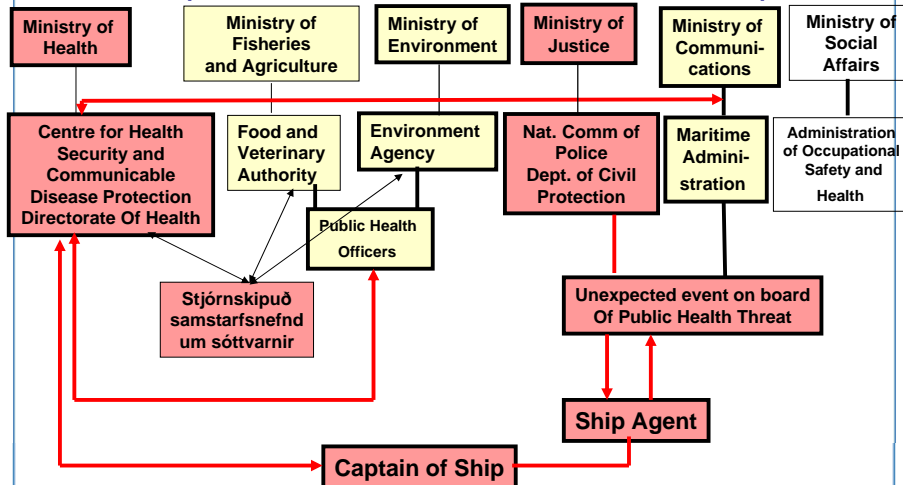


## ANNEXES TO THE IHR

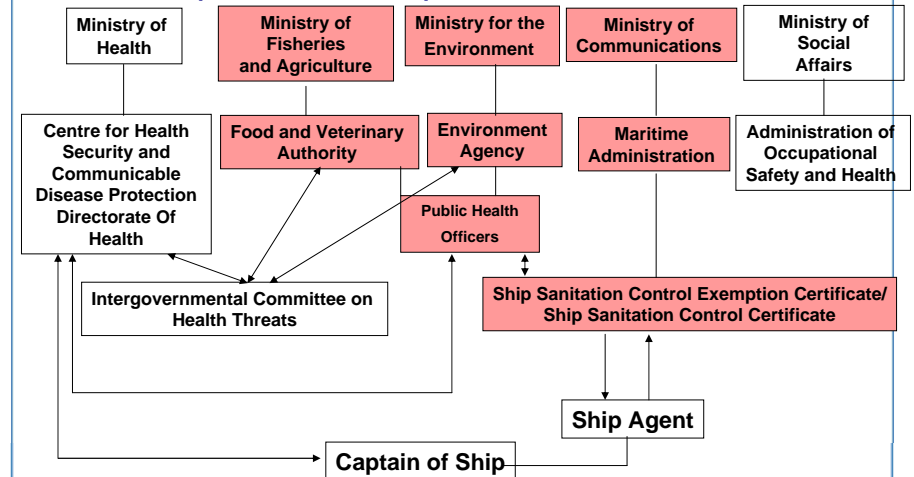
- ANNEX 5
- SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES
- ANNEX 6
- VACCINATION, PROPHYLAXIS AND RELATED CERTIFICATES
- ANNEX 7
- REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING VACCINATION OR PROPHYLAXIS FOR SPECIFIC DISEASES
- ANNEX 8
- MODEL OF MARITIME DECLARATION OF HEALTH
- ANNEX 9
- HEALTH PART OF THE AIRCRAFT GENERAL DECLARATION

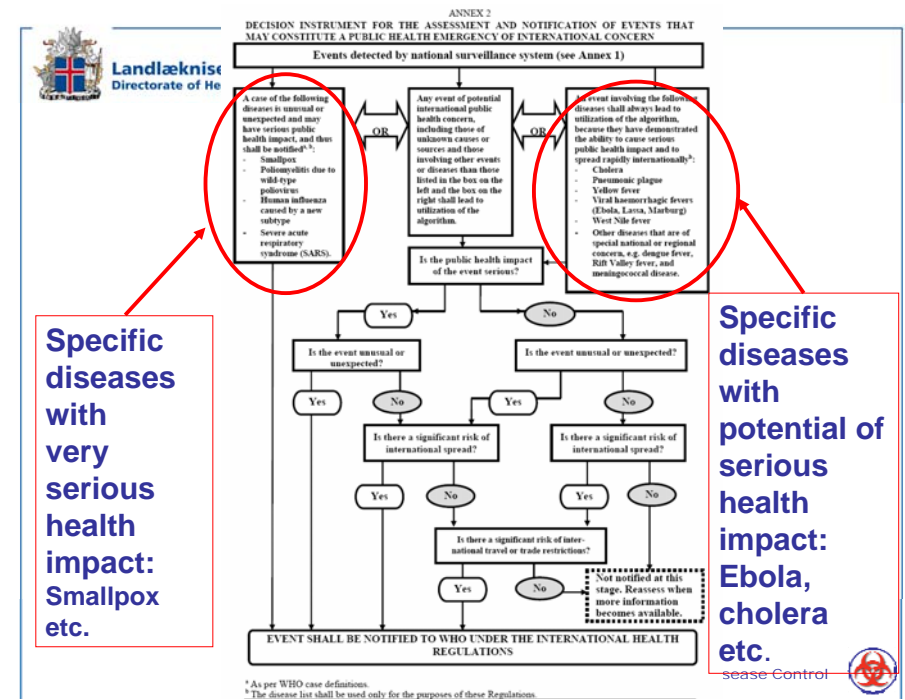
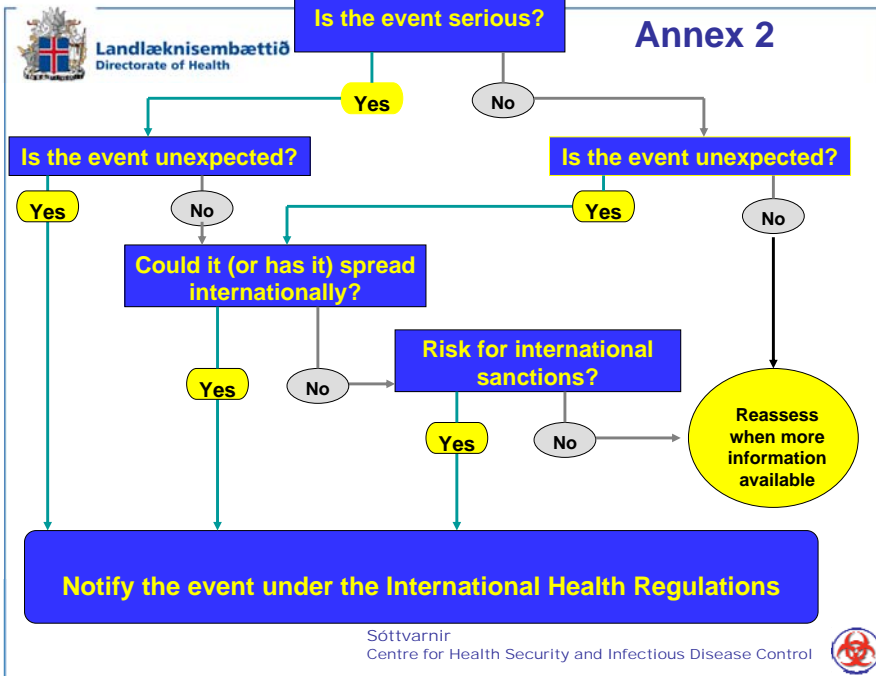


### Annex 1: Involvement of Relevant Authorities for Measures in Case of an Unexpected Event of Public Health Threat on Board a Ship



### Annex 3: Competent Authorities Involved in Issuing Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate/ Ship Sanitation Control Certificate





Landlæknisembættið  
Directorate of Health

	Old	New
Notify specific diseases	Y	?/Y
Measures for ships, planes etc	Y	Y
Maximum measures	Y	appropriate
Health documents	Y	Y
Notify/verify public health emergency of international concern	N	Y

Sóttvarnir  
Centre for Health Security and Infectious Disease Control

Landlæknisembættið  
Directorate of Health

## Implementation of the International Health Regulations in Iceland

Sóttvarnir  
Centre for Health Security and Infectious Disease Control

## Actions taken

- **Legislation**

- Act no. 19/1997 on Communicable Diseases changed in 2007:
- Act no. 19/1997 on Health Security and Communicable Diseases

- **Regulations**

- Regulation no. 414/2007 on Public Measures Against Communicable Diseases and Other Health Threats
- Regulation no 834/2007 on Regional Containment of Communicable Diseases and Regional Epidemiologists



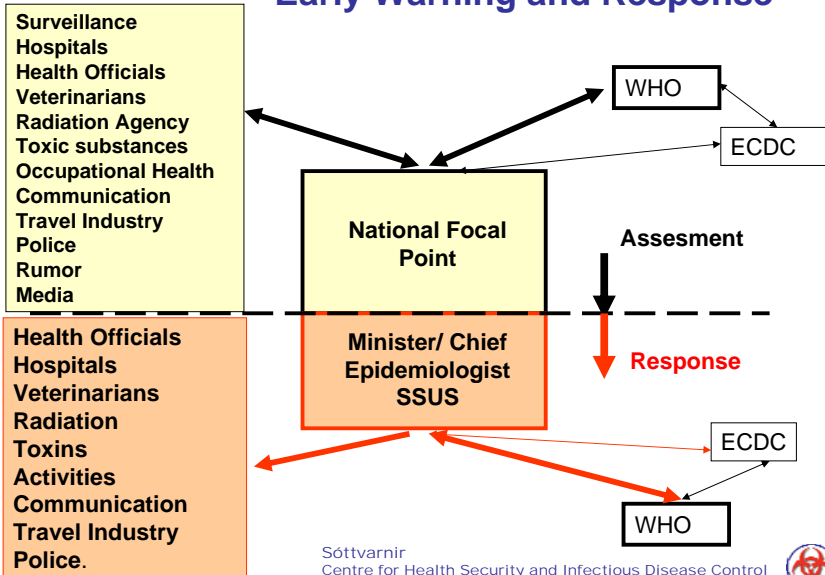
## Act no. 19/1997 on Health Security and Communicable Diseases

The scope was broadened:

- Threats to public health
- Epidemic diseases.
- Serious diseases caused by infectious agents, microbes, parasites, **toxic agents and radio-nuclear substances.**
- **Unusual or unexpected incidents that may be of international concern.**



## Early Warning and Response



Thank you