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 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 Wellfare

- 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 sanitations 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)
Contact

• Ingrid Nilsson
• ingrid.nilsson@socialstyrelsen.se