

**TREASURE DEPARTMENT, UNITED
STATES PUBLIC HEALTH
SERVICE. QUARANTINE LAWS
AND REGULATIONS OF THE
UNITED STATES**

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Treasure Department, United States Public Health Service. Quarantine Laws and Regulations of the United States by Various

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U.S. Public health service

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

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QUARANTINE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

OF THE
UNITED STATES



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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE,

Washington, March 22, 1920.

To medical officers of the Public Health Service, collectors of customs,
consular officers, and others concerned:

Upon the recommendation of the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service and pursuant to the act of Congress approved February 15, 1893, entitled "An act granting additional quarantine powers and imposing additional duties upon the Marine Hospital Service," and other quarantine laws, the following regulations are hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned. All previous regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby revoked.

D. F. HOUSTON,
Secretary.

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QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

CHAPTER I.

QUARANTINABLE DISEASES.

1. For the purpose of these regulations the quarantinable diseases are cholera, yellow fever, smallpox, typhus fever, leprosy, plague, and anthrax.

GENERAL.

BILLS OF HEALTH.

2. Masters of vessels clearing from or leaving any foreign port or any port in the possessions or other dependencies of the United States for a port in the United States or its possessions or other dependencies must obtain a bill of health, in duplicate, signed by the proper officer or officers of the United States as provided for by law, except as provided for in paragraph 3.

The following form is prescribed:

FORM 1937.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

BILL OF HEALTH.

I (the person authorized to issue the bill, at the port of) do hereby state that the vessel hereinafter named clears (or leaves) from the port of under the following circumstances: Name of vessel Nationality Master Tonnage, gross Net Name of medical officer Number of officers Of crew, including petty officers Officers' families Passengers destined

for the United States First cabin
 second cabin , steerage Ports
 visited within preceding four months.

Location of vessel while in port: Wharf open bay
 Distance from shore If
 any passenger or member of crew disembarked on account of sick-
 ness, state disease

Time vessel was in port.....

Character of communication with shore.....

Sanitary condition of vessel.....

Sanitary measures, if any, adopted while in port.....

Sanitary condition of port and vicinity

Prevailing diseases at port and vicinity

Number of cases and deaths from the following-named diseases
 during the past two weeks ending

Diseases.	Number of cases.	Number of deaths. ¹	Remarks. [Any conditions affecting the public health existing in the port of departure or vicinity to be here stated.]
Yellow fever.....			
Asiatic cholera.....			
Cholera nostras or cholerae.....			
Smallpox.....			
Typhus fever.....			
Plague.....			
Leprosy.....			

¹ When there are no cases or deaths, entry to that effect must be made.

Date of last case (within preceding year):

Cholera.....

Yellow fever.....

Human plague.....

Typhus.....

Rodent plague.....

I certify that the vessel has complied with the Quarantine Rules and Regulations made under the act of February 15, 1893, and that the vessel leaves this port bound for United States of America, via

Given under my hand and seal this day of 19...

(Signature of consular officer.)

[SEAL.]

Countersigned by—
.....

Medical Officer, U. S. Public Health Service.

3. In accordance with the provisions of the act of Congress approved August 18, 1894, vessels hereinafter named are exempt from the provisions of section 2 of the act granting additional quarantine powers and imposing additional duties upon the Marine Hospital Service, approved February 15, 1893, which requires vessels clearing from a foreign port for a port in the United States to obtain from the consular or medical officer a bill of health. Vessels so exempt are those plying between Canadian ports on the St. Croix River, the St. Lawrence River, the Niagara River, the Detroit River, the St. Clair River, and the St. Marys River, and adjacent ports of the United States on the same waters; also vessels plying between Canadian ports on the following-named lakes, viz, Ontario, Erie, St. Clair, Huron, Superior, Rainy Lake, Lake of the Woods, Lake Champlain, and ports of the United States; also vessels plying between ports in British Columbia and ports on the Pacific coast of the United States as far south as (inclusive) San Francisco; also vessels plying between Canadian ports on the Atlantic coast and ports of the United States on the Atlantic coast as far south (inclusive) as Boston; also vessels plying between Mexican ports on the Rio Grande River and ports of the United States on the same river. Vessels sailing originally from other foreign ports and merely calling at Canadian ports en route to the United States are not exempt from

the provisions of section 2, of the act approved February 15, 1893. During the prevalence of any of the quarantinable diseases at the foreign port of departure, vessels above referred to are hereby required to obtain from the consular officer of the United States, or from the medical officer of the United States, when such officer has been detailed by the President, a bill of health, in duplicate, in the form prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

CHAPTER II.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AT FOREIGN AND INSULAR PORTS.

4. The officer issuing the bill of health to vessels leaving foreign ports and ports in the possessions or other dependencies of the United States for ports in the United States or its possessions or other dependencies shall satisfy himself, by inspection if necessary, that the conditions certified to therein are true. He is authorized, in accordance with law, to withhold the bill of health until he is satisfied that the vessel, the passengers, the crew, and the cargo have complied with all the quarantine laws and regulations of the United States.

5. Inspection is required of—

(a) All vessels from ports at which cholera, yellow fever, or plague in men or rodents prevail, or at which smallpox or typhus fever prevails in epidemic form, and at which a medical officer is detailed.

(b) All vessels carrying steerage passengers; but need only include the inspection of such passengers and their living apartments if sailing from a healthful port.

6. Inspection of the vessel is such an examination of the vessel, cargo, passengers, crew, personal effects of same, including examination of manifests and other papers, food and water supply, the ascertainment of its relations with the shore, the manner of loading and possibilities of invasion by rats and insects as will enable the inspecting officer to determine if these regulations have been complied with.

7. When an inspection is required, it should be made by daylight, as late as practicable before sailing. The vessel should be inspected before the passengers go aboard, the passengers just before embarkation, and the crew on deck, and no communication should be had with the vessel after such inspection except by permission of the officer issuing the bill of health.

8. Vessels, prior to stowing cargo or receiving passengers, should be mechanically clean in all parts, especially in the hold, forecastle, and steerage and loose dunnage in unladen compartments shall be so arranged as to prevent harborage of rodents.

9. Any portions of the vessel liable to have been infected by any communicable disease should be disinfected before the issuance of the bill of health.

10. The air space, ventilation, food and water supply, hospital accommodations, and all other matters mentioned therein promotive of the health and comfort of the passengers must be in accordance with the provisions of the act of Congress approved August 2, 1882, entitled "An act to regulate the carriage of passengers by sea."

11. Bedding, upholstered furniture, soiled wearing apparel, personal effects, and second-hand articles of a similar nature coming from a district known to be infected with smallpox or as to the origin of which no positive evidence can be obtained, and which the consular or medical officer has reason to believe is infected, should be disinfected prior to shipment. Articles similar to the above mentioned, if from a district infected by plague or typhus, should be inspected, and, if necessary, treated to destroy vermin.

12. Articles from an uninfected district shipped through an infected port may be accepted without restriction if not exposed to infection in transit.

13. Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to modify or nullify in any way existing restrictions promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury at the instance of the Secretary of Agriculture for the prevention of the introduction of diseases of animals.

14. Any article shipped from or through an infected port or place which the consul or medical officer has reason to believe infected, should be disinfected.