



PUBLIC HEALTH SCREENING AT U.S. PORTS OF ENTRY

A Guide for Federal Inspectors

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Infectious Diseases
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine*

July 2007

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The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services has statutory responsibility for preventing the introduction, transmission, and spread of communicable diseases in the United States. Under its delegated authority, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Global Migration and Quarantine works to fulfill this responsibility through a variety of activities, including the operation of Quarantine Stations at ports of entry, establishment of standards for medical examination of persons destined for the U.S., and administration of interstate and foreign quarantine regulations, which govern the international and interstate movement of persons, animals, and cargo. The legal foundation for these activities is found in Titles 8 and 42 of the US Code and relevant supporting regulations. See Attachment 1 for a fact sheet with additional information on these legal authorities.

These authorities empower the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine to apprehend, detain, medically examine, or conditionally release individuals (including U.S. citizens) suspected of having any one of the following diseases as specified by the Executive Order of the President:

- **Cholera and Suspected Cholera**
- **Diphtheria**
- **Infectious Tuberculosis**
- **Plague**
- **Suspected Smallpox**
- **Yellow Fever**
- **Suspected Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers, such as Lassa, Marburg, Ebola, Congo-Crimean, and others not yet isolated or named**
- **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)**
- **Influenza caused by novel or re-emergent influenza viruses that are causing, or have the potential to cause, a pandemic**

CDC Quarantine Stations, also known as “CDC Public Health Quarantine Stations,” are located at major international airports; each quarantine station has responsibility for all ports in an assigned geographic area (*see pg. 11*). You should know which Quarantine station has jurisdiction over your port. Historically, Quarantine Stations have been referred to in the port community simply as “PHS” or “Public Health.” As organizational names and assignments have changed over the years, that tradition has remained.

Foreign quarantine regulations require that the death or illness of an arriving international passenger or crew member be reported, prior to arrival, by the captain of the arriving ship or airplane to the quarantine station having responsibility for the port of entry. In practice, however, illnesses are not always reported as required. The following guidelines should be observed by all inspection personnel.

I. Inspection of Arriving Persons

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) personnel should observe all travelers for obvious signs and symptoms of illness such as (1) fever which could be detected by visualizing a flushed complexion, shivering, or profuse, unexplained sweating; (2) new, unexplained rash; (3) unusually flushed or pale complexion; (4) jaundice (unusual yellowing of skin or eyes); (5) respiratory problems such as severe cough, or new onset of difficulty breathing; (6) diarrhea (by report); (7) bleeding from eyes, nose, gums, ears or other wounds that appear to be actively bleeding and not clotting; or (8) neurological symptoms such as unexplained weakness or paralysis.

A person is considered to be **ill** in terms of foreign quarantine regulations when signs/symptoms meet the following criteria:

- **Temperature of 100° F (38° C) or greater, which is accompanied by one or more of the following: rash, jaundice, glandular swelling, or which has persisted for 2 days or more.**
- **Diarrhea severe enough to interfere with normal activity or work (three or more loose stools within 24 hours or a greater than normal number of loose stools).**

If these criteria are met, DHS personnel should detain ill passengers and crew, and ask for details about symptoms and itinerary. At a port of entry where a quarantine station is staffed, that quarantine station should be notified and a quarantine public health officer will investigate. If there is no quarantine inspector at your port, notify the appropriate quarantine station (*see pg. 11*). The quarantine station will release or conditionally release the ill person, or, if the circumstances warrant, arrange for a physician to conduct a medical examination and recommend appropriate action.

II. Check Itineraries

It is sometimes necessary to check the itinerary of arriving persons *whether or not they are ill* because of a known communicable disease outbreak abroad. Specific itineraries may be associated with a need for appropriate preventive measures. If this situation should arise, CDC will provide specific instructions. The person may be given printed information or be referred to the appropriate quarantine station.

III. Health Alert Notice

A Health Alert Notice (Form CDC 75.8) provides general guidance for travelers arriving from areas where they may have been exposed to a communicable disease. When directed to do so, issue a Health Alert Notice to each arriving person or to each adult in a family group. On occasion disease specific Health Alert Notices may be developed (i.e., SARS) and distributed.

IV. Medical Inspection of Arriving Aliens

Basis for Inadmissibility: The health-related grounds of inadmissibility of aliens under section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act provide for the inadmissibility of any alien who:

- Is determined to have a communicable disease of public health significance. Currently, these are:

- **Chancroid**
- **Gonorrhea**
- **Granuloma Inguinale**
- **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection**
- **Leprosy, infectious**
- **Lymphogranuloma Venereum**
- **Syphilis, infectious stage**
- **Tuberculosis - active, infectious**

- Seeks admission or adjustment of status as an immigrant and who has not been vaccinated against at least the following diseases: mumps, measles, rubella, polio, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, *Haemophilus influenzae* type B and hepatitis B, and any other vaccinations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices;
- Has or had a physical or mental disorder with associated behavior that poses or may pose a threat to the property, safety, or welfare of the alien or others; or
- Is a substance abuser or addict.

Procedures to Follow: Inspectors should immediately advise the appropriate quarantine station

when an immigrant or a nonimmigrant “K” or “V” arrives without medical documents or with incomplete medical documents. Do not keep the alien's chest X-ray film. This is an important medical document that the alien should retain as part of his or her permanent health records.

Refer to the appropriate quarantine station all aliens for whom a Form CDC 75.40, "Medical Hold" should be issued. Candidates for a "Medical Hold" are:

- Aliens who are not routinely required to have a medical examination and who, upon arrival in the U.S., exhibit a physical condition that may render them inadmissible under section 212(a) of the Act;
- Aliens who are not routinely required to have a medical examination and who, upon arrival in the U.S., exhibit variations in behavior which may indicate a physical or mental disorder that may pose a threat to the property, safety, or welfare of the alien or others and who may be inadmissible under section 212(a) of the Act;
- Aliens who require a medical examination overseas [immigrants, refugees, fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens and their minor children (“K” nonimmigrants), and nonimmigrant spouses of Legal Permanent Residents (LPR’s) and their children (“V” nonimmigrants)], but who arrive without evidence or with incomplete evidence of having had one performed, or with one that has expired (1 year for normal examination findings). Satisfactory evidence can consist of a properly completed Form DS-2053, “Medical Examination for Immigrant or Refugee Applicant” (or the older Form OF-157) and supporting worksheets DS-3024, DS-3025 and DS-3026, with results of chest X-ray and serologic tests for syphilis and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection indicated. Chest X-ray and serologic tests are required for aliens 15 years of age and older. Form DS-3025, “Vaccination Worksheet,” is not required for nonimmigrant visa K’s and V’s or for refugees.

Procedures to Follow: Aliens with a Class A condition or a Class B TB condition. These aliens should have an annotation in their visa, if applicable, as follows:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Class A or Class B Condition• Requires Attention of USPHS at Port of Entry |
|---|

The inspector should check all DS-2053 forms, whether or not the "Attention USPHS" annotation is present, to see if a Class A or B TB condition is indicated on the form but the annotation has been omitted.

When quarantine station personnel are not available to process aliens with these medical conditions, retain a copy of the DS-2053 and supporting worksheets, DS-3024, DS-3025, and DS-3026. On the reverse side of the DS-2053, write the alien's U.S. address, sponsor's name, address, phone number, arriving flight and date, port of entry, and the Customs and Border Protection inspector's name. A photocopy of the alien's immigrant visa (OF-155B), if applicable,

is satisfactory in lieu of transcribing this information on the reverse of the DS-2053 provided that the address is correct on the OF-155B and that the flight number, date of arrival and phone number are recorded on the OF-155B prior to making the photocopy. The OF-155B and/or DS-2053 plus 3 worksheets (DS-3024, DS-3025 and DS-3026) with requested information should be given, mailed, or sent by fax to the appropriate quarantine station.

Procedures for Class A Cases With Section 212(g) Waivers: If the alien has a Class A communicable disease of public health significance the following should be given or mailed to the appropriate quarantine station:

- 1) copies of the DS-2053 and 3 worksheets
- 2) OF-155B if applicable
- 3) both sides of the I-601 waiver application, properly stamped and annotated by the waiver-approving official to show that the waiver has been approved. A copy of the attachment form to the I-601 for HIV infection with statements to be completed by waiver applicants who are HIV infected should also be given or mailed to the appropriate quarantine station.

Contact U.S. Customs and Border Protection for additional information.

If the alien has a Class A physical or mental disorder with associated harmful behavior, a copy (front and back) of USPHS/CDC Form 4.422-1, "Statements in Support of Application for Waiver," should be given or mailed to the appropriate quarantine station, along with the DS-2053 and 3 worksheets, OF-155B, if applicable, and I-601.

Notes:

- There is no waiver provision in the law for aliens applying for immigrant visas who are excludable under section 212(a)(1)(A)(iv) for substance abuse or addiction. If an alien arrives with a visa indicating Class A substance abuse or addiction, please refer to the appropriate quarantine station.
- Local health department follow-up of aliens' health conditions is critically important to the public health; providing accurate addresses and phone numbers to the appropriate quarantine station is an essential part of this follow-up process.

Special Procedures for Aliens Medically Certified As Class A, But Who Arrive Without a Waiver: Normally, any prospective immigrant, refugee, or K or V nonimmigrant who is found to be inadmissible under section 212(a)(1) of the Act through the medical examination will not be issued a visa or travel authorization unless and until he or she has been granted a waiver of inadmissibility (and in the case of a K or V nonimmigrant, two such waivers - one under section

212(d)(3)(A) for the nonimmigrant admission and a conditional one under section 212(g) for his or her later adjustment to LPR status). However, should a Class A alien apply for admission with such documentation but without such waiver, follow the instructions in the Inspector's Field

Manual (IFM), section 17.9(c)(4).

Special Procedures for Refugees Arriving at a Port of Entry Without USPHS Staff:

Refugees and asylees normally arrive at ports where quarantine inspectors are assigned, but this may not always be the case. Notify the appropriate quarantine station of all refugees and asylees entering the U.S. for the first time. If a quarantine inspector is not available to process the refugee or asylee, you will be asked to obtain a copy of the DS-2053 and applicable supporting worksheets (DS-3025, "Vaccination Worksheet," is not required). You also should obtain the following information, normally by making copies of documents carried by the refugee or asylee. This information is necessary to ensure that all refugees and asylees receive a health screening and any appropriate immunizations or treatment at the place of resettlement:

- **Name of Refugee**
- **Sex**
- **Date of Birth**
- **Country of Birth**
- **Language Spoken**
- **"A" Number**
- **Sponsor's Name**
- **Sponsor's Address**
- **Sponsor's Phone Number**
- **Sponsoring Agency**
- **Date of Arrival**
- **Flight and Block Time**
- **Port of Arrival**

Special Procedures Regarding Parolees: Every effort should be made to determine the tuberculosis status of parolees and to contact the appropriate quarantine station for instructions before the parolee is released.

V. Importations of Public Health Importance

Animals: CDC regulations govern the importation of dogs, cats, turtles, monkeys, other animals, and animal products capable of causing human disease. Requirements for the importation of the most common animals are described below. Pets taken out of the U.S. are subject, upon return, to the same regulations as those entering for the first time. The requirements of other agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, may also have an impact on the entry of these animals or animal products into the U.S. The general requirement is that all animals intended for importation into the U.S. shall be visually examined by inspecting personnel. Only those that have no obvious signs of infectious diseases may be admitted. Animals that show signs of illness (e.g., emaciation, lesions of the skin, nervous system disturbances, jaundice or diarrhea) shall be examined, tested, or treated by a licensed veterinarian at the owner's expense. Quarantine station personnel can be an informational resource about these issues and should be contacted.

When handling any items that must be seized and incinerated, precautions (gloves and a mask at a minimum) must be observed.

Dogs: Regardless of age, dogs may be released without restriction if they appear to be healthy and have been exclusively in a rabies-free area (<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/yellowBookCh4-Rabies.aspx>) for at least 6 months immediately preceding arrival or since birth. Dogs arriving from countries other than those listed as rabies-free may be admitted if they meet all the following requirements:

- **Greater than 3 months of age**
- **Free of gross evidence of infectious disease**
- **Accompanied by a valid certificate of vaccination against rabies. This certificate shall:**
 - **Identify the dog**
 - **Be signed by a licensed veterinarian**
 - **Specify the expiration date, which should not be earlier than the date of arrival; if the expiration date is not indicated on the certificate, it shall be valid for only 1 year from the date of issue.**
 - **Specify the date of vaccination, which shall not be less than 30 days prior to the date of arrival.**

An example of a rabies vaccination certificate is attached to this document and can be found online at the following address:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/professional/publications/compendium/rabies2b.pdf>

For a dog that is subject to the rabies vaccination requirement and appears to be healthy, but does not have a valid rabies certificate as outlined above, CDC form 0.1288 (available online at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/pdf/animal/dog_quarantine_notice_08-04-06-cdc7537.pdf) must be completed and forwarded to the appropriate quarantine station (see pg. 11) for distribution. The form must be signed by the individual responsible for the imported dog. CDC 75.37 is to be prepared when:

- The dog is greater than 3 months old and has no certificate: Release the dog provided the owner agrees to place the dog in confinement immediately upon arrival at destination and have it vaccinated against rabies within 4 days. The dog must then be confined for an additional 30 days following vaccination. Confinement is defined as restriction of the animal to a building or other enclosure, in isolation from other animals and people, except for contact necessary for its care. If the dog is allowed out of the enclosure, the owner must muzzle the dog and use a leash.
- The dog is greater than 3 months old and has a certificate showing a vaccination done less than 30 days prior to arrival: The owner is required to confine the dog for the balance of 30 days.
- The dog is less than 3 months old: The owner is required to confine the dog until it is 3 months old, then have it vaccinated and confined for 30 additional days. A vaccination certificate presented for a puppy less than 3 months old cannot be accepted.

Cats : Cats are subject only to the general requirements for entry as stated above. No rabies vaccination or health certificate is currently required for entry.

Monkeys and Other Nonhuman Primates: Live monkeys and other nonhuman primates may not be imported for use as pets under any circumstances. They may only be imported into the U.S. for bona-fide scientific, educational, or exhibition purposes. Importers must be registered with CDC and are responsible for implementing specific disease control measures while the animals are imported and cleared, transported to the importer's facilities, and quarantined for a 31-day period. Registered importers must also hold a special permit, issued by CDC, to import cynomolgus, rhesus, or African green monkeys.

- Verify Importer Status: Contact the appropriate quarantine station *see pg. 11*) when primates are presented for entry to verify that the importer is currently registered as an importer of nonhuman primates and that, if required, a special permit has been issued.
- Illegally Imported Monkeys: If a monkey owned by a passenger arrives hand-carried or as baggage, isolate the animal and call the quarantine station for advice immediately. **DO NOT** handle the animal or allow others near its enclosure.
- Seizure: Inadmissible nonhuman primates are seized and re-exported to the country of origin, donated to facilities approved by CDC, or destroyed. Form CDC 75.10d is to be used. Quarantine station staff will provide guidance.

- **Animal Acts:** Nonhuman primates that are part of a legitimate animal performing act may, if appropriately registered with CDC, be transported from and returned to the U.S. The CDC registration for these acts is in the form of a letter on CDC letterhead; it grants re-importation privileges only for specific animals (i.e., no new primates may be imported as part of an animal act). The letter must be presented at the time of entry to satisfy CDC requirements for re-importation.

Turtles: Live turtles with a carapace (shell) length of *less than* 4 inches (measured in a straight line from front to back) and viable turtle eggs may *not* be imported into the U.S. for *commercial purposes*. An individual may import turtles of less than 4 inches in shell length only if the importation is *not* for *commercial purposes* and the importation includes no more than one lot containing fewer than seven live turtles, fewer than seven viable turtle eggs, or any combination thereof totaling fewer than seven. CDC may issue permission for an importation of a larger number when the importation is for a bona-fide noncommercial scientific or exhibition purpose. CDC has no restrictions on the importation of live turtles with a carapace length of greater than 4 inches.

African Rodents: Live African rodents and unprocessed African rodent products may not be imported into the U.S. This restriction includes rodents that were caught in Africa and then shipped directly to the U.S. or shipped to other countries before being imported to the U.S. and also applies to rodents whose native habitat is in Africa, even if those rodents were born elsewhere. CDC may issue permission for an importation of these animals and unprocessed animal products when the importation is for a bona-fide noncommercial scientific or exhibition purpose.

Animal products that have been processed to render them noninfectious may be imported without permission. Such processes could include: 1) inactivation by heat (heated to an internal temperature of 70°C or placed in boiling water for a minimum of 30 minutes), 2) preservation in 2% formaldehyde, 3) chemically treating in acidic or alkaline solutions (soaking in a solution below pH 3.0 or above pH 11.5 for 24 hours), or 4) the use of hypertonic salts.

Civets and other members of the Viverridae family: Live civets and unprocessed civet products may not be imported into the U.S. CDC may issue permission for an importation of these animals and unprocessed animal products when the importation is for a bona-fide noncommercial scientific or exhibition purpose. Animal products that have been processed to render them noninfectious as described above may be imported without permission.

Other Animals: When CDC issues new import restrictions or modifies existing ones, this information will be communicated directly to inspection personnel at ports of entry. In addition, staff at the quarantine stations should be familiar with these new restrictions and can be contacted for information. Finally, the most up-to-date information can be found on our website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/animal.htm#restrictedanimals>.

Goatskin Products from Haiti: Untanned goatskin products from Haiti may not be imported

into the U.S. because they may carry anthrax.

Human Remains: Examine the death certificate to determine the cause of death. Admit unless the person died of a quarantinable disease (cholera, plague, yellow fever, infectious tuberculosis, diphtheria, suspected smallpox, SARS, or suspected viral hemorrhagic fever), in which case the casket must be hermetically sealed. If there is no evidence that the casket is hermetically sealed, hold and contact the appropriate quarantine station for instructions. Ashes may be admitted without restriction, regardless of the cause of death.

Permits Required for Etiologic Agents and Vectors of Disease: It is impractical to list the several hundred species of etiologic agents and vectors for which a permit is required. The intent of the permit requirement is to control the importation of etiologic agents and vectors and ensure that permitted shipments are adequately packaged. Any shipment for which a permit has been issued may be immediately released. Additional information about these permits can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/eaipp/>. The following classes of imports require a permit issued by CDC:

- Any living insect or other living arthropod known to be or suspected of being infected with any disease transmissible to humans; also, if alive, any bedbugs, fleas, flies, lice, mites, mosquitoes, or ticks, even if uninfected. This includes eggs, larvae, pupae, and nymphs, as well as adult forms
- Any animal known to be or suspected of being infected with any disease transmissible to humans
- All live bats
- Unsterilized specimens of human and animal tissue (including blood), body discharges and excretions, or similar material, when known to be or suspected of being infected with disease transmissible to humans
- Any culture of living bacteria, virus, or similar organism known to cause or suspected of causing human diseases
- Any snails capable of transmitting schistosomiasis.

Note: Form CDC 75.41, “Denied Entry/Disposition” should be completed whenever an item is denied entry under Foreign Quarantine Regulations.

VI. Contact Information

All questions about application of these guidelines should be directed to the quarantine station having jurisdiction over your port of entry.

A quarantine officer is on duty or on call at each quarantine station 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

CDC Quarantine Station Jurisdictions and Contact Information
(All numbers operate with 24 hour access, unless an alternate number is provided. Confirm address for shipping non-FedEx parcels)

Contact information is found at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/quarantine_stations.htm

Headquarters

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
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Health Information for International Travel

The best and most complete source of health information for international travel is the CDC web site:

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel>

Other Travelers' Health Resources

Toll-Free 24-Hour Fax Hotline: To select information with touchtones to be sent via fax, dial 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299)

To learn about disease outbreaks, to obtain publications, or to listen to messages about specific diseases, dial 1-877-394-8747 (1-888-FYI-TRIP).