

## HEALTH REGULATIONS FOR AIR TRAVEL (II)

BY

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In the first article on the above subject (*Journal*, 1947, 2, 741) Dr. Barrett focused the attention of practitioners on quarantine procedure in air travel as it affects general practice to-day. It is felt that, having read that article, medical practitioners may well ask where they are to find current quarantine requirements and how they are to keep themselves informed of any future variations. An endeavour is made in the following paragraphs to answer these questions as briefly and clearly as possible in a limited space.

The provision of inoculation and vaccination certificates against one or more of the following diseases—smallpox, yellow fever, cholera, plague, and typhus—is, as a rule, an essential part of the formalities of air travel, and passengers are informed of their particular immunization requirements at the time of booking. Under normal epidemiological conditions these remain fairly constant, and, so far as the routes operated by British Overseas Airways Corporation are concerned, are here tabulated.

It is of assistance to the passenger for the practitioner to check any existing certificates to ensure that they conform to the requirements of the route along which he proposes to travel and, if necessary, to inoculate him afresh and issue new certificates. The wise traveller should take no avoidable risk in playing for absolute safety in this respect, and certainly will not do so if he has any experience of the delays that are apt to occur. In all cases it is essential that the international form of certificate recommended by the International Sanitary Convention

for Aerial Navigation, 1933, as amended in 1944 (which may be obtained from the Ministry of Health, Section 5C, Whitehall, S.W.1), should be used.

The outbreak of cholera in Egypt in the autumn of 1947 emphasized the need for compliance with new quarantine regulations immediately they are issued. In the present state of the world, both politically and from the epidemiological angle, new restrictions and/or variations of existing ones must be anticipated. Amendments to quarantine requirements are notified to the British Overseas Airways Corporation by "Line" authorities immediately and by World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health weekly, and the Editor of the *British Medical Journal* has kindly agreed to publish them in the *Journal* as necessary, in order that practitioners may keep themselves up to date on the subject.

These notes and the accompanying Table are not the complete picture of immunization for air travel, but only a practical guide to actual route requirements based on a continuous scrutiny of the current quarantine regulations in all those countries or areas which B.O.A.C. or British aircraft transit. It will be appreciated that it is the right of each individual country to enforce quarantine restrictions on its airports at its discretion, and it will be apparent therefore that one country alone doing so, out of perhaps six or eight transited, means that a certificate of immunization is required for all travellers along that particular route. Moreover, the validity of a certificate, as regards either its commencement or cessation and even the dosage of the vaccine or serum to be used, varies among the countries which have signed the Convention.

A chart indicating all these details and variations in requirement for embarkation, disembarkation, and transit, and the actual countries declared infected by the quarantining country, is maintained up to date, and provides the source of supply of information for inquirers, but it will be understood that such a chart is too elaborate and extensive for reproduction in this article.

*Passenger Protective Requirements for Specific Routes from England and Return, Including Stopping Places on Each Route (Revised November 19, 1948)*

	Route	Yellow Fever	Smallpox	Cholera	Typhus	Plague	T.A.B.	
No. 1 Line } No. 2 Line } No. 4 Line }	London-Cairo .. .. .	—	Yes	R	R	R	R	
	Cairo-London .. .. .	—	R	R	R	R	R	
	Southampton-Alexandria Alexandria-Southampton .. .. .	—	R	R	R	R	R	
No. 1 Line	London-Accra .. .. . Accra-London .. .. .	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	R R	R R	— —	R R	
No. 1 Line	London-Teheran .. .. . Teheran-London .. .. .	— —	R Yes	R R	R R	R R	R R	
No. 2 Line	London-Johannesburg .. .. . Johannesburg-London .. .. .	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	R R	R R	R R	R R	
No. 2 Line	London-Sydney .. .. . Sydney-London .. .. .	R R	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	R R	R Yes	R R	
No. 2 Line	London-Calcutta .. .. . Calcutta-London .. .. .	— —	Yes Yes	R Yes	R R	R Yes	R R	
No. 3 Line	London-(a) New York .. .. . (b) Montreal and return	(a) — (b) —	Yes No	— —	— —	— —	R R	U.S.A. requires passengers from India, Pakistan, and Syria to have cholera certifi- cat
No. 4 Line	Southampton-Singapore .. .. . Singapore-Southampton .. .. .	R R	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	R R	Yes Yes	R R	
No. 4 Line	Southampton-Iwakuni .. .. . Iwakuni-Southampton .. .. .	R R	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	R R	R R	Yes R	Japan requires children 1-15 years to be inoculated against diphtheria
No. 4 Line	Southampton-Hong Kong .. .. . Hong Kong-Southampton .. .. .	R R	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	R R	Yes Yes	R R	
No. 4 Line	Southampton-Sydney .. .. . Sydney-Southampton .. .. .	R R	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	R R	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	
No. 4 Line	Southampton-Bahrein .. .. . Bahrein-Southampton .. .. .	— —	Yes Yes	R R	R R	R R	R R	

"Yes" indicates that the inoculation or vaccination is an essential requirement without which the passenger will be held in quarantine on arrival or may not be permitted to embark.

— indicates there is no requirement.

R indicates that owing to the presence of the disease or other circumstances the inoculation or vaccination is desirable for the passenger but it is not an essential requirement.

Protective inoculations against major epidemic diseases are required as follows: *Smallpox*: for practically all routes. *Yellow fever*: for journeys to and from West and South Africa. *Cholera*: for all journeys to and from India and Far East. It is also advisable to be protected if en route to West Africa and Egypt. *Typhus and typhoid group (T.A.B.C.)*: for these diseases protective inoculation is recommended, though not essential on all routes. *Plague*: for journeys from some airports in the Orient.