

## **Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908.**

### **Contributors**

Great Britain. Local Government Board.  
Royal College of Surgeons of England

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183 Euston Road  
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Circular.—Councils of Metropolitan and other Boroughs,  
and of Urban and Rural Districts



(12)

## PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGU- LATIONS, 1908.

Local Government Board,  
Whitehall, S.W.

18th December, 1908.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Local Government Board to state that they have had under consideration the desirability of affording facilities for the extension of administrative action for the prevention of tuberculosis, and that with this view they have issued an Order in pursuance of Section 130 of the Public Health Act, 1875, as amended and extended by the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, and the Public Health Act, 1896, to provide for the notification to the Medical Officers of Health of Sanitary Authorities of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis occurring amongst the inmates of Poor Law Institutions, or amongst persons under the care of District Medical Officers, and for the taking of certain measures in such cases.

### *Notification by Medical Officers of Poor Law Institutions.*

Article IV. of the Order directs that the Medical Officer of a Poor Law Institution, as defined by Article I., shall, within 48 hours after his first recognition of the symptoms of pulmonary tuberculosis in the case of a poor person who is an inmate of the institution, post to the Medical Officer of Health for the sanitary district in which the person resided immediately before he became an inmate of the institution a notification of the case.

The notification must be made on a printed form as set out in the Schedule to the Order.

### *Notification by District Medical Officers.*

Article V. directs that a similar notification shall be posted to the Medical Officer of Health by the District Medical Officer in the case of any poor person suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis on whom he is in medical attendance according to his agreement with a Board of Guardians.

The notification must be posted within 48 hours after the District Medical Officer has first recognised the symptoms of pulmonary tuberculosis, and must be addressed to the Medical Officer of Health acting for the sanitary district in which the residence of the poor person is situate.

### *Notification by Superintending Officers of Poor Law Institutions.*

Under Article VI. it will be the duty of the Superintending Officer of a Poor Law Institution to post to the Medical Officer of Health on a printed form as set out in the Schedule to the Order a notification of the actual or intended place of destination and address at that place of any person leaving the institution in respect of whom a notification has been made by the Medical Officer of the institution under Article IV.

[Price 1d.]

The notification must be posted within 48 hours after the departure of the person to whom it relates, and must be sent to the Medical Officer of Health of the sanitary district in which the intended destination of the person is situate.

*Notification of changes of address by Relieving Officers.*

Article VII. provides that a Relieving Officer shall notify any change of address (other than by admission to a Poor Law Institution) of a person in respect of whom a notification has been made under Article V. by a District Medical Officer.

The notification must be made on a printed form as set out in the Schedule to the Order, and must be sent to the Medical Officer of Health for the sanitary district in which the address to which the person moves is situate.

The notification must be posted within 48 hours after the Relieving Officer has obtained accurate information respecting the change of residence.

*Remuneration to be allowed.*

Provision is made by Article VIII. for the remuneration of the Officers who have to make notifications under the Order. In the case of the Medical Officer of a Poor Law Institution or a District Medical Officer, the remuneration will be at the rate of one shilling for every notification, but where in relation to any one case two or more notifications have been posted by the Medical Officer to the same Medical Officer of Health, his remuneration will be at the rate of sixpence for every such notification after the first.

In the case of a Superintending Officer of a Poor Law Institution or a Relieving Officer, the remuneration will be at the rate of threepence for every notification.

The remuneration will be payable by the Council of the sanitary district for which the Medical Officer of Health acts, it will be deemed to cover the cost of postage, and it will be payable in the manner and subject to the conditions prescribed by the Article.

*Supply of Forms.*

It will be the duty of the Poor Law Authorities referred to in Article III. to supply to the Officers concerned printed copies of the appropriate forms set forth in the Schedule to the Order.

*Exception and Application of Enactments.*

Some of the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875, and of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, relative to infectious disease are not usually appropriate in cases of pulmonary tuberculosis.

The Board have, therefore, provided by Article IX. (1) that nothing in the Regulations shall have effect so as to apply or to authorise any one to put in force with respect to a person in relation to whom a notification has been made any enactment which renders him or any other person liable to a penalty or subjects him to any restriction, prohibition, or disability affecting him or his employment, occupation, means of livelihood, or residence on the ground of his suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

*Special Powers of Councils.*

Subject to what is stated in the preceding paragraph, it is desirable that Sanitary Authorities acting on the advice of their Medical Officers of Health should utilise their powers for the purpose of preventing the spread of infection from pulmonary tuberculosis. The Order confers some special powers which the Board are advised are suitable for this purpose, and which are set out in Article IX. (2) of the Order.

The Board propose to issue for the use of Sanitary Authorities and Medical Officers of Health a memorandum by their Medical Officer setting out the appropriate action that can be taken under these powers. Copies of the memorandum will be sent to the Council in due course.

*Determination of Questions or Differences.*

Article XI. will enable the Board to determine any question or difference in relation to anything done under the Order on the application of any of the parties affected.

*Pulmonary Tuberculosis Notifiable under Local Acts.*

Article XII. deals with those cases in which powers have been obtained with respect to pulmonary tuberculosis by a Local Act. Nothing in the Regulations will have effect in derogation of any power or obligation under any such Act, but subject to this the Regulations will apply to any district in which a Local Act containing provisions with respect to pulmonary tuberculosis is in force.

The Board may, however, on the application of the Council of the district direct that so much of the Regulations as relates to a notification by a Medical Officer of a Poor Law Institution or a District Medical Officer shall not have effect in relation to that district.

*Date on which the Order comes into effect.*

The Order will take effect on and after January 1st next, and it is desirable that the arrangements which are necessary to facilitate carrying it out should be made without any delay. In fixing January 1st as the date when the Order shall come into operation the Board have had regard to the convenience, from a statistical point of view, of the Order taking effect at the commencement of a calendar year. If, however, any delay occurs in the printing of the forms, it may be understood that it will not be necessary to carry out the Regulations until these can be obtained.

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Copies of the Order and Circular are enclosed, and I am to request that a copy of each may be given to the Medical Officer of Health.

The Order and Circular will be placed on sale so that copies may shortly be obtained, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman and Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*S. B. Provis.*

Secretary.

The Town Clerk *or*  
The Clerk to the Urban *or*  
Rural District Council.

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