



Health (Infectious and Notifiable Diseases) Amendment Regulations 2003

Silvia Cartwright, Governor-General

Order in Council

At Wellington this 25th day of August 2003

Present:

Her Excellency the Governor-General in Council

Pursuant to the Health Act 1956, Her Excellency the Governor-General, acting on the advice and with the consent of the Executive Council, makes the following regulations.

Contents

1	Title	Schedule
2	Commencement	Item inserted in Second Schedule of
3	Second Schedule amended	principal regulations

Regulations

- 1 Title**
- (1) These regulations are the Health (Infectious and Notifiable Diseases) Amendment Regulations 2003.
 - (2) In these regulations, the Health (Infectious and Notifiable Diseases) Regulations 1966¹ are called “the principal regulations”.

¹ SR 1966/87

2 Commencement

These regulations come into force on 25 September 2003.

3 Second Schedule amended

The Second Schedule of the principal regulations is amended by inserting, after the item relating to Salmonella infection, the item set out in the Schedule of these regulations.

Schedule

Item inserted in Second Schedule of principal regulations

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Severe Acute Respiratory
Syndrome (SARS)

For the period from the time the person is diagnosed as satisfying the World Health Organization's case definition for a "suspect" case of SARS or a "probable" case of SARS until either—

- 10 days after the resolution of fever, if at that time there is no cough; or
- any later time when there is no cough

For 10 days from the time the person (**person A**) most recently had close contact with a person who is diagnosed as satisfying the World Health Organization's case definition for a "probable" case of SARS (a **probable SARS person**). However, if person A resides in the same premises as any 1 or more probable SARS persons, until 10 days after the time that is—

- 10 days after the resolution of fever in all of the 1 or more probable SARS persons, if at that time none of the 1 or more probable SARS persons has a cough; or
- any later time when none of the 1 or more probable SARS persons has a cough

Marie Shroff,
Clerk of the Executive Council.

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the regulations, but is intended to indicate their general effect.

These regulations, which come into force on 25 September 2003, insert in the Second Schedule of the Health (Infectious and Notifiable Diseases) Regulations 1966 (“the principal regulations”) an item relating to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

The effect of the amendment is to—

- prohibit, during the isolation period shown in the second column of the item, a person who is suffering or has suffered from SARS from going, wilfully and without the consent of the Medical Officer of Health, outside the limits of the premises in which the person resides (*see* regulation 8 of the principal regulations):
- require the following to submit to medical examinations, and to produce specimens, and to submit to and carry out treatment, as required by the Medical Officer of Health (*see* regulation 10 of the principal regulations):
 - a contact of SARS (that is, a person exposed to risk of infection from SARS within a period not exceeding the period of incubation of that disease prescribed by the fifth column of that item):
 - a carrier of SARS:
- empower (and in certain cases require) the Medical Officer of Health to require a contact or carrier of SARS to be isolated by remaining within the limits of the premises within which the contact or carrier resides or within a hospital available for the reception of infectious cases or within another place specified by the Medical Officer of Health (*see* regulation 11 of the principal regulations):
- require every child and every school teacher who is suffering from, or is suspected to be suffering from, SARS to be

excluded from school for the period of isolation shown in the second column of that item or for a lesser period determined by the Medical Officer of Health (*see* regulation 14(1) of the principal regulations):

- require every child and every school teacher who has been exposed to the infection of SARS to be excluded from school for the period shown in the fourth column of that item or for a lesser period determined by the Medical Officer of Health (*see* regulation 14(2) of the principal regulations):
- impose duties (to secure compliance with the previous 2 requirements, and to give to the Medical Officer of Health, or to an Inspector, certain information he or she requested) in relation to SARS on certain parents or guardians, certain school teachers, and certain head teachers or other persons in charge of schools (*see* regulation 14(3) of the principal regulations):
- make contraventions of those prohibitions or of those requirements, or failures to comply with those duties, an offence punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500 and, if the offence is a continuing one, to a further fine not exceeding \$50 for every day on which the offence has continued (*see* regulation 26 of the principal regulations and section 136 of the Health Act 1956).

Issued under the authority of the Acts and Regulations Publication Act 1989.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 28 August 2003.

These regulations are administered in the Ministry of Health.
