

Progress Report 2016

Quarantine Unit Ministry of Health

The main responsibility of this unit is to protect Sri Lanka by the prevention of the spread of diseases into the country and to protect, prevent and control of international spread of diseases and other public health risks specially the **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)** while avoiding unnecessary interference with international Traffic and Trade. The legal frameworks supporting unit activities are Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases ordinance of 1897, and International Health Regulations (IHR , 2005).

Sri Lanka is also legally bound to comply and obliged to Implement the IHR (2005) with the other member states in accordance with the purpose and scope to protect, prevent and control of international spread of diseases as well public health risks specially Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC. According to IHR (2005) unit and Epidemiology Unit had been designated as national IHR focal points to be accessible at all times with WHO IHR focal points. Activities related to implementation of IHR in Sri Lanka are being carried out by both the units in collaboration with each other.

The main functions of the quarantine unit are:

1. Develop policies and guidelines related to boarder health security and IHR 2005.
2. General administration of health offices at point of entries (ports and airports) .
3. Inspection of vessels and cargo for contamination so that they are maintained in such a condition that they are free of sources of infection or contamination, including vectors and reservoirs.
4. supervision of any derating, disinfection, disinsection or decontamination of baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods, postal parcels and human remains or sanitary measures for persons.
5. Inspection of conveyances and insurance of free pratique and sanitation certificates through respective health offices
6. Monitoring and supervision of environment, sanitation and vector control activities at point of entries.
7. Yellow fever, oral polio vaccination and provide anti-malarial prophylaxis to travelers
8. Maintain IHR core-capacities at point of entries
9. Monitoring of implementation of IHR 2005 and reporting to WHO.
10. Training public health staff on boarder health security and IHR
11. Conduct operational research related to IHR and boarder health security
12. Support to implement migration health policy

Legal instruments for quarantine and border health security

At present the following tools are being used prevent control and spread of disease into Sri Lanka.

- Quarantine and prevention of diseases ordinance No. 3 of 1897 and its subsequent amendment No. 13 of 1936, No. 11 of 1939, No. 7 of 1917, No. 14 of 1919, No. 14 of 1920 No. 5 of 1941, No. 13 of 1943, Act No. 12 of 1952, SARS Regulations of 2003 (chapter 222) Quarantine Regulations of 1960 (chapter 173)
- list of notifiable diseases, list of notifiable diseases to WHO.
- International Health Regulation (2005)

The following port and airport health offices are carry out the quarantine services and border health security services in Sri Lanka under the guidance of quarantine unit ..

- Port Health Office, Colombo Harbor.
- Office of the Assistant Port Health Officer, at MRI(vaccinations only)
- Airport Health Office, Bandaranayke International Airport , Katunayake.
- Port Health Office at Galle
- Port Health Offices at Magampura Rajapaksha International Port-Hambantota (MoH Ambalangoda covering up)
- Airport Health Office,- Rajapaksha International Airport - Mattala
- Port Health Office at Trincomalee
- Port health office – Norochhole (MoH Kalpitiya covering up)
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Major achievements during 2015

- Mapping Legal Framework current legal frameworks, routine practices, procedures, duties and systems in place for border health management. Mapping literature and Global best practices in border health relevant to Sri Lankan context to review and present a cabinet memorandum to harmonize new and emerging public health issues with present system.
- Establish a ‘legislative review committee’ –Legal Officers representing the relevant Ministries/stakeholders to discuss the amendments needed to link IHR with the Domestic legal framework
- Developed Standard Operational Procedure (SOPs) to strengthen the border health practices
- Develop Public Health Emergency Contingency plan for Colombo Ports and BIA

- Enhance the capacity of Quarantine/Border Health Officers through in-service training programs
- Introduction of “Malaria Screening” for people arriving from Malaria endemic countries was started at 24 hour functioning health desk in Airport Health Office, BIA Katunayake.

Quarantine and Border health security routine services:

Activities:

Issuance of free pratique to ships

All the ships entering Sri Lanka should obtain free pratique from respective port health office prior to disembark travelers or goods. This is done after inspection of the ship and necessary documents.

Surveillance at point of entries

Routine surveillance mechanism is operating at point of entries to detect any traveler with communicable diseases and this is carried out with multi stakeholder involvement. Especially during public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) the surveillance for particular disease is further strengthened.

The existing entry screening procedures will be implemented based on risk assessment of the disease outbreak situation and WHO temporary recommendations.

Monitoring and supervision of Disinfection, disinfection procedures at point of entries

Disinfection, disinfection of air craft's and ship sanitation procedures are being carried out by professionals and monitored and supervised by the trained public health staff of the respective health office at Point of entries.

Release of dead bodies

The human remains or dead bodies release after excluding public health risk by the health officers at point of entries. If judicial procedure is required the dead body will be referred to a judicial medical officer of the area.

Vector control at Point entries

Medically relevant vector controlled activities are being monitored by respective health offices at point of entries and 400 meter perimeter with the support of MRI , dengue control unit and anti-malaria unit . these monitoring activities are carried out according to pre plan schedule throughout year .

Food and water sanitation at Point entries

Maintain food and water safety at point of entries is essential under IHR (2005) . Inspection of food items, catering establishments and inside the premises of airport and port are routinely carried out under port / airport health offices. The educational activities are carried out by the health offices to vendors of the food establishments. inspection of food items, sampling of imported food items, forwarding to lab analysis are being done if requested by the custom authorities. A routine drinking water sampling activities are carried out with a view to ensure water safety to travelers and staff of the point of entries.

Vaccination and prophylaxis to travelers

Administering Yellow fever vaccine and issuance of yellow fever vaccination certificate are carried out at Assistant Port Health office, Medical Research Institute, Borella, Colombo 08 and Colombo Port health office. A valid international certificate of vaccination against Yellow Fever is mandatory according to the IHR 2005 from all travelers over 01 year of age arriving to Sri Lanka from Yellow Fever endemic countries. Travelers coming from yellow fever endemic counties are refereed to health office at BIA and all crew members of the ships arriving at ports are being screened for yellow fever certificate. malaria screening is conducted among returning refugees from selected high risk countries in collaboration with anti-malaria campaign. Oral poli vaccine is given to high risk travelers to endemic countries based on WHO recommendations.

Medical management of suspected passengers with communicable disease

The passengers suspected with communicable disease are being assessed by medical offices at point of entries and decide the course of action. Infectious Disease Hospital, Colombo (IDH) is designated as the referral point for the management of travelers with infectious diseases at the national level during PHEIC. while base hospital Negambo and north Colombo teaching hospital and national hospital Colombo will also facilitate the management of incoming passengers with infectious diseases as required. The transportation of suspected travelers to hospitals has been arranged according to the published public health emergency plans.

Activities carried out by health office at point of entries during 2015 are listed below.

Activities Carried out by the Airport Health Officer-BIA Katunayake

Activities	Number
1. Yellow Fever Surveillance	
1.1 No. with valid certificate	412
1.2 No. without valid certificate & Departed	-
2. Disinfections of Aircrafts	
2.1 No of flight arrived	26400
2.2 No. of flights has to be disinfected	24108
2.3 No. of flights disinfected	21989
3. Passenger Arrivals & Departures	
3.1 No. of passengers Arrived	4266643
3.2 No. of passengers Departure	
4. Release of Human Remains	
4.1 No. of Human Remains released	472
4.2 No. of released to J.M.O. for postmortem	25
4.3 No. alleged suicide	24
4.4 Surveillance of other infectious Diseases	-
5. Airport Sanitation	
5.1 No. of sanitary inspections carried out including Food establishment	153
5.2 No. of food samples taken under food act	12
5.3 No	prosecuted
found	warned
defectives	
6. Other activities	
6.1 Polio vaccines No. of doses given	00
6.2 Health education given to staff	61
6.3 no. of water samples take for bacteriology analysis	22

Activities Carried out by the Airport Health Officer-Mattala MRIA

Activities	Mattala MRIA
1. Yellow Fever Surveillance	
1.1 No. with valid certificate	-
1.2 No. without valid certificate & Departed	-
2. Disinfections of Aircrafts	
2.1 No of flight arrived	436(Domestic 14)
2.2 No. of flights has to be disinfected	19
2.3 No. of flights disinfected	-
3. Passenger Arrivals & Departures	
3.1 No. of passengers Arrived	Foreign 1202 Domestic 1544
3.2 No. of passengers Departure	-
4. Release of Human Remains	
4.1 No. of Human Remains released	-
4.2 No. of released to J.M.O. for postmortem	-
4.3 No. alleged suicide	-
4.4 Surveillance of other infectious Diseases	-
5. Airport Sanitation	
5.1 No. of sanitary inspections carried out including Food establishment	32
5.2 No. of food samples taken under food act	F/B08 IF/B02
5.3 No prosecuted	02
found warned	06
defectives	
6. Other activities	
6.1 Polio vaccines No. of doses given	
6.2 Health talks given to staff	
6.3 no. of water samples take for bacteriology analysis	06

Summary of the Activities Carried out by the Port Health Officer- Colombo Harbor

Indicator	Colombo Port
No. of Ship arrival/ Pratique granted	4289
No. of Yellow fever vaccines given	79
No. of ship sanitation exemptions certificate issued	231
No. of human remains released	03
No. of under graduate trained	78

Summary of the Activities Carried out by the Port Health Officer - Galle Harbor

Indicator	Galle Port
No. of Ship arrival/ Pratique granted	22
No. of Yellow fever vaccines given	37
No. of ship sanitation exemptions certificate issued	03
No. of human remains released	00
No. of under graduate trained	08

Summary of the Activities Carried out by the Port Health Officer- Hambantota Rajapaksha International Harbor

Indicator	Hambantota Port
No. of Ship arrival/ Pratique granted	289
No. of Yellow fever vaccines given	00
No. of ship sanitation exemptions certificate issued	00
No. of human remains released	00
No. of under graduate trained	00

Summary of the Activities Carried out by the Port Health Officer- Tricomalee Harbor

Indicator	Number
No. of Ship arrival/ Pratique granted	134
No. of Yellow fever vaccines given	28
No. of ship sanitation exemptions certificate issued	06
No. of human remains released	00
No. of under graduate trained	00

Summary of the Activities Carried out by the Asst. Port Health Officer-MRI -Colombo

Indicator	Number of Doses
TOTAL NO. OF YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION	3915
TOTAL NO. OF MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS VACCINATION	1691
TOTAL NO. OF ORAL POLIO VACCINATION (BOOSTER	1683

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Limited isolation facilities were established at main international airport and seaport