

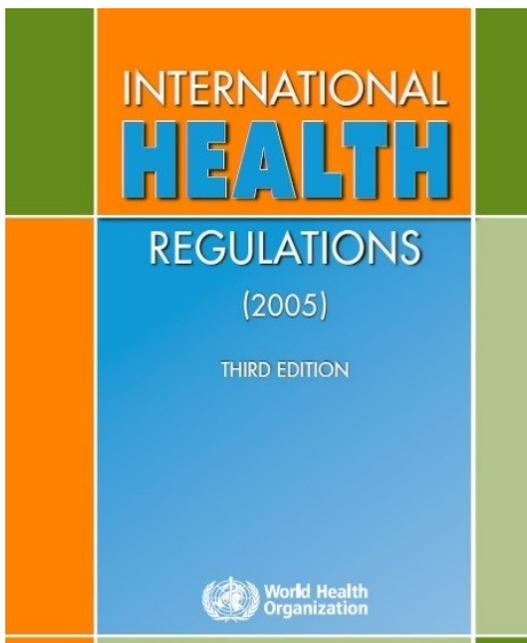
ISSUE BRIEF: International Public Health Threats and the Quarantine Act 2017

No.1, February 2017

NEED TO KNOW

The Quarantine Act 2017 will provide Bermuda with public health protection from international diseases; by regulating the arrival of travelers and goods, on ships and aircraft and passage across our borders. International threats from diseases such as Ebola or Zika present a risk to Bermuda from time to time and the Quarantine Act will assure that these risks are detected and contained whenever they arise.

The Act was passed in the House of Assembly on 3rd February 2017, the Senate on 13th February and will be sent for Royal assent. The 2017 Bill repeals and replaces the Quarantine Act 1946 and introduces internationally recognized standards to prevent and protect against public health threats that can impact the Island's population, economic well-being and reputation. The Act will also ensure we implement the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Health Regulations 2005.



FAST FACTS

International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR 2005) were adopted by the UK and extended to Bermuda in 2007.

- The Quarantine Act 2017 allows for the implementation of the IHR 2005 in Bermuda.
- The Act requires surveillance of travelers, ports, ships and airplanes for communicable diseases.
- The Act will require our Chief Medical Officer to report any diseases that may pose a public health threat to Public Health England.
- Public Health England will communicate with WHO on all international public health risks in Bermuda and provide support to Bermuda for any international health risk.
- Health Officers who screen travelers, ships and planes will be appointed by the Minister responsible for health.

NEXT STEPS

While the Act implements a modern public health security framework, the Regulations will include more information about the roles and responsibilities to carry-out this framework. The Quarantine (Air and Maritime) Regulations 2017 are currently being reviewed and are due to be rolled-out by Spring 2017.

These Regulations and the Quarantine Act 2017 will provide Bermuda with the best possible public health security structure for events such as the America's Cup, which will bring thousands of visitors to Bermuda. The Quarantine Act 2017 can be found on our website: <https://www.gov.bm/health-library>

