



## SCOTTISH HOME AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

St. Andrew's House, EDINBURGH, 1

Telephone: Waverley 8501, Ext.

Y/DIN/3/3A

Y/DIN/3/9

Our reference: Y/DIN/3/10

27th September, 1968.

Your reference:

Dear Doctor,

From 1st October, 1968 infective jaundice and measles will be generally notifiable under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases)(Scotland) Amendment Regulations 1968.

A form of infective jaundice known as spirochaetosis ictero-haemorrhagica is already a notifiable disease in Scotland under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations (Scotland) 1932. In addition viral infectious hepatitis has been made locally notifiable in the Eastern Regional Hospital Board area by Orders under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act 1889 in order to facilitate a study of the epidemiology of the disease in the area.

The principal object of making all forms of infective jaundice generally notifiable is to enable Medical Officers of Health to enquire into the epidemiological background.

The majority of cases of infective jaundice notified under the new Regulations are likely to be due to infective hepatitis, which is a common condition believed to be of increasing incidence. The illness has an incubation period of usually, 15-40 days, and the virus is transmitted mostly by person to person contact. This infection tends to spread in communities of children who may infect susceptible adults in their households. Water-borne and food-borne outbreaks have been described but are uncommon in Great Britain. The disease may also be transmitted parenterally, like serum hepatitis.

Serum hepatitis occurs less frequently than infective hepatitis. It is potentially a more serious condition with a longer incubation period of usually, 60-160 days. Transmission is almost invariably by a parenteral route and a history of blood transfusion, or of an injection by any parenteral route, within the incubation period may suggest this diagnosis. Cases of serum hepatitis are usually sporadic but outbreaks have occurred associated with contaminated syringes or other medical equipment. Jaundice amongst groups of drug addicts has been shown to have been associated with the practice of sharing syringes and needles and small coteries of drug addicts have been detected as a result. Outbreaks both of infective hepatitis and serum hepatitis have been reported from a number of units undertaking intermittent haemodialysis for the treatment of chronic renal failure.

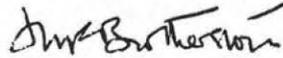
As far as measles is concerned, as you are probably aware measles is a notifiable disease in England and Wales but has not hitherto been notifiable in Scotland. With the introduction this year of routine vaccination against measles, general notification of cases of measles will provide a means of making some assessments, nationally and locally, of the results of vaccination.

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To: Medical Officers of Health  
General Medical Practitioners

The amending regulations also include provision for the fee of notifications of infectious diseases and food poisoning to be increased to 5s. This new fee will replace the fees of 2s. 6d. and 1s. specified in the first paragraph of regulation 10(1) of the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations (Scotland) 1932 and which also applied to food poisoning notifiable under section 22(1) of the Food and Drugs (Scotland) Act 1956.

Yours sincerely,



(J.H.F. BROTHERSTON)  
Chief Medical Officer.