

SANITARY RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING VACCINATION

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SAN JUAN, P. R., October 17, 1916.

Administrative Bulletin No. 111.

BY THE ACTING GOVERNOR OF PORTO RICO
A PROCLAMATION

Sanitary Rules and Regulations No. 46.—Vaccination, regulations governing; promulgated.

The following regulations, having been approved by the Insular Board of Health on September 11, 1916, and by the Executive Council on October 10, 1916, in accordance with the provisions of Act. No. 81, approved March 14, 1912, are hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned :

“THE REGULATION OF VACCINATION.

“1. For the purposes of this regulation, vaccination shall be understood to be the transference to a human being of the virus from the irruption on the skin of a susceptible animal suffering from vacuna or cow-pox.

“2. In compliance with the Sanitation Law now in force which provides that vaccination and re-vaccination shall be obligatory upon all the inhabitants of the Island of Porto Rico, this operation shall be carried out at the time and under the circumstances hereinafter prescribed.

“3. Vaccination shall be practiced only by physicians, *practicantes* and nurses or by persons outside the medical profession who have obtained a vaccinator's license from the Director of Sanitation. This license shall only be extended to the interested person, who shall have demonstrated his competence by a practical examination in vaccination, before a competent board, appointed by said Director of Sanitation.

“4. Every physician, *practicante*, nurse or vaccinator shall be obliged to send to the office of the Service of Sanitation in the town in which he practices, a list of the persons he has vaccinated, stating whether the operation has produced the satisfactory result desired.

“5. For vaccination only fresh, dry or glycerinated virus or live pulp shall be used obtained from bovine vacuna or cow-pox and prepared by some reputable scientific organization and guaranteed to contain no noxious bacteria.

“6. The only mode of vaccination employed shall be by puncture, points or

scraping by means of sterilized needles, glass or ivory points or scalpel, taking care not to cause the flow of blood or unnecessary irritation of the skin. The scarification should not be crossed nor should dry points be used.

"7. The persons who have been vaccinated by the officials of the Sanitation Service, shall present themselves from the sixth to the tenth day after their vaccination at the office appointed for this purpose in each locality, for examination and verification of the result obtained.

"8. Every child living in Porto Rico shall be vaccinated during the period from the age of three months to one year. If this first vaccination is not successful it shall be repeated at the end of a month if the second operation is not successful it shall be repeated at the end of the year. Children that have had smallpox during this period need not be re-vaccinated.

"9. At the age of seven years every child, whether having been successfully vaccinated or not, shall be re-vaccinated, and if this vaccination is not successful it shall be repeated at the end of a month, and if still unsuccessful the child shall be re-vaccinated from its ninth to tenth year.

"10. Those persons not yet twenty years of age who have been successfully vaccinated shall be obliged to be re-vaccinated eight years after the last vaccination, and if this is not successful it shall be repeated at the end of a month.

"11. Persons over twenty-five years of age shall only be obliged to re-vaccinate on the outbreak of small-pox in any part of the Island, which appears to threaten an epidemic.

"12. The teachers, employees and caretakers of the public and private schools of the Island of Porto Rico shall possess a certificate of vaccination or re-vaccination of a date not previous to five years, on taking charge of their work.

"13. Every child who desires to attend a public or private school shall present a certificate of vaccination or re-vaccination, without which he shall not be admitted.

"14. All employees of railroads, tramways and vehicles at the service of the public, all stevedores of steam and sailing vessels, also proprietors and clerks of hotels, restaurants and other establishments, the managers and operatives of work-shops and factories shall be provided with said certificate according to his age; which guarantees his having been vaccinated or re-vaccinated, as the case may be.

"15. The members of the police force shall possess a certificate of having been duly vaccinated or re-vaccinated according to the provisions of this regulation, and those persons who desire to enter the police force shall not be admitted until they shall have fulfilled this requirement.

"16. Inspectors, internal-revenue appraisers and other employees whose occupation brings them in contact with the public shall possess a certificate of vaccination or re-vaccination in accordance with the provisions of this regulation.

"17. As soon as the existence of cases of small-pox shall be verified in any house or any locality of the Island, all persons residing in said house or locality, no matter of what age, shall be vaccinated or re-vaccinated, unless it can be proved to the entire satisfaction of the Sanitary authorities that they have been successfully vaccinated or re-vaccinated within a period of three years prior to the outbreak of small-pox.

"18. The Director of Sanitation shall provide a sufficient number of vac-

cinators and the necessary amount of vaccine virus to constantly maintain vaccination and re-vaccination in normal times, of the people living in the Island of Porto Rico; *Provided*, In case of epidemic the number of vaccinators and amount of vaccine virus shall be increased according to the necessities of the moment.

"19. Until such a time as there shall be a vaccine station established in the Island of Porto Rico, it shall be the duty of the Service of Sanitation to be provided with a sufficient quantity of vaccine virus, procured at some reputable station and guaranteed by the Government of the United States.

"20. As soon as the vaccine station shall be established, it shall prepare and distribute the virus necessary for all the Island. In this case as well as when the virus is obtained by other means, the Service of Sanitation shall supply it, free of cost, in such conditions regulated by this service, as shall guarantee its proper use and the keeping of statistics of vaccination.

"21. The Service of Sanitation shall keep a record of the vaccination and re-vaccination of the inhabitants of the Island of Porto Rico, in which shall be stated the names, in alphabetical order, ages, residences and other data considered necessary to prove that the provisions of this regulation have been complied with.

"22. Those persons who desire to avail themselves of the services of physicians, *practicantes*, nurses or licensed vaccinators, not connected with the Service of Sanitation for vaccination, may do so freely. In such cases the vaccinator has the right to charge for his services.

"23. Physicians, *practicantes*, and nurses may obtain the necessary vaccine virus from the Service of Sanitation by means of an application by the interested person, in which is stated the number of persons intended to be vaccinated. These persons are under the obligation of reporting to the office of Sanitation the names, ages, etc., of the persons vaccinated and re-vaccinated and the result obtained; *Provided*, That physicians may use, if they so prefer, vaccine procured from any accredited station.

"24. All persons who have complied with the provisions of this regulation are entitled to a certificate, free of charge, from the Service of Sanitation, stating that they have been vaccinated or re-vaccinated.

"25. Every year the Service of Sanitation shall fix a time in which vaccination shall take place.

"26. All persons of full age, parents or guardians of minors, also the heads of public and private institutions are obliged to comply with these obligations.

"27. Any violation of these regulations shall be punishable as provided under section 33 of 'An Act to reorganize the Sanitation Service,' approved March 14, 1912.

"28. All municipal ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed in accordance with section 18 of 'An Act to reorganize the Sanitation Service.'

"These rules and regulations shall take effect when approved by the Executive Council and promulgated and published in accordance with section 13 of Act No. 81, approved March 14, 1912."

Being so promulgated and having been published in two newspapers of general circulation in the Island, in accordance with section 13 Act. No. 81, approved March 14, 1912, the said regulations, entitled

“The Regulation of Vaccination”, approved by the Executive Council on October 10, 1916, on and after this date have the force and effect of law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Government of Porto Rico to be affixed at the city of San Juan, this seventeenth day of October, A. D. nineteen hundred and sixteen.

[SEAL]

MARTÍN TRAVIESO, JR.,
Acting Governor.

Promulgated according to law, October 17, 1916.

R. SIACA PACHECO,
Acting Secretary of Porto Rico.



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

This REVIEW will be glad to receive articles for publication but will reserve the right to publish only those adapted to its purposes.

It is especially interested in contributions from the medical profession particularly from those who are competent to discuss public health matters.

Manuscripts are not returned. All articles should be addressed to:

PORTO RICO HEALTH REVIEW,
Department of Health,
San Juan, Porto Rico.