

ADVERSE REACTIONS TO SMALLPOX VACCINATION

UNITED KINGDOM. — The following is quoted from the weekly *Communicable Disease Report*, CDR 79/38, 28 September 1979, published by the Public Health Laboratory Service in the United Kingdom.

"On 20 September 1979, a two-year-old girl was admitted, seriously ill with a vesicular rash, to an isolation cubicle in a general hospital. The rash had appeared on the first day of illness seven days earlier and was more dense on the limbs than on the trunk; her hands and face were also affected. She had a history of eczema and had not been abroad. The original diagnosis was chickenpox but poxvirus was seen by electron microscopy of vesicle fluid. In a subsequent visit to the girl's home, it was discovered that she had been playing with a child who had been vaccinated on 3 September, prior to travelling abroad. Virus cultures had confirmed the diagnosis of vaccinia. At the time of writing, the outlook for the girl is grave. This sad incident emphasizes the need for strict precautions with smallpox vaccine."

(Based on/D'après: *Communicable Disease Report*,

KUWAIT. — A five-month old boy was vaccinated against smallpox on 24 April 1979. A month later he was admitted to hospital with an ulcerative lesion involving the entire arm circumference. Despite intensive care, lesions developed on the trunk, perineum and buttocks which eventually coalesced forming large destructive ulcers. The child's general condition deteriorated and he died on 15 July 1979.

(Based on/D'après: *Monthly Epidemiological Report*, No. 7, July/juillet 1979, Ministry of Public Health, Kuwait.)

List of the Countries or Areas requiring Smallpox Vaccination Certificates from All Arrivals as of 24 October 1979
Liste des pays ou zones exigeant des certificats de vaccination antivariolique de tous les voyageurs au 24 octobre 1979

Angola
Belize
Benin — Bénin
Bhutan — Bhoutan
Bolivia — Bolivie
Botswana
Brunei — Brunéi
Chad — Tchad
* China — Chine
Comoros — Comores
Congo
Democratic Kampuchea — Kampuchéa démocratique
Djibouti
East Timor — Timor oriental
Equatorial Guinea — Guinée orientale
Guinea — Guinée
Iran
Ivory Coast — Côte d'Ivoire
Lao People's Democratic Republic — République démocratique populaire lao
Lesotho

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya — Jamahiriya arabe libyenne
Madagascar
Mali
Namibia — Namibie
Nepal — Népal
Oman
Philippines
Sao Tome and Principe — Sao Tomé-et-Principe
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Southern Rhodesia — Rhodésie du Sud
Sudan — Soudan
Uganda — Ouganda
United Republic of Cameroon — République-Unie du Cameroun
Upper Volta — Haute-Volta
Zaire — Zaïre

* The Health Administration has advised that a certificate is no longer necessary from all travellers but maintains the requirement with respect to a large number of countries.¹

It should be noted that, in some instances, there is a need for legislation to change vaccination laws and this process may cause delays in changing requirements for smallpox certificates. This list of countries will be modified as notifications of change in requirements are received by the Organization.

¹ See No. 17, p. 135.

EDITORIAL NOTE: An increasing number of health administrations are receiving complaints from doctors who are concerned about the possibility of adverse reactions resulting from unnecessary vaccination in relation to international travel. One of the problems is that, although a Member State may no longer require a smallpox vaccination certificate, the embassies and/or consulates of these countries abroad are still insisting that a certificate is required and in some instances refuse to issue visas without them. The opportunity is taken at this second anniversary of the world's last known case of endemic smallpox to ask all health administrations to ensure that the vaccination certificate requirements of their embassies and consulates abroad reflect the views of the national health administration. Specifically with respect to smallpox it is emphasized that no vaccination certificate should be required from any traveller.

* L'Administration de la Santé a notifié qu'un certificat n'était plus exigé de tous les voyageurs mais qu'elle le maintenait encore pour un grand nombre de pays.¹

On notera que, dans certains cas, les lois en matière de vaccination doivent être modifiées, ce qui peut retarder le changement des dispositions relatives aux certificats de vaccination antivariolique. La liste des pays sera modifiée au fur et à mesure que les changements seront notifiés à l'Organisation.

¹ Voir № 17, p. 135.

NOTE DE LA RÉDACTION: Un nombre croissant d'administrations sanitaires sont saisies de plaintes en provenance de médecins qu'inquiète le risque d'induction de réactions nocives par des vaccinations pratiquées sans nécessité en relation avec des voyages internationaux. Un des problèmes vient de ce que, même lorsqu'un Etat Membre a cessé d'exiger la présentation de certificats de vaccination antivariolique, ses ambassades et/ou consulats à l'étranger continuent d'insister sur la nécessité de la possession d'un certificat et, dans quelques cas, subordonnent la délivrance de visas à la production d'un tel document. A l'occasion de ce deuxième anniversaire du constat du dernier cas connu de variole dans le monde, il est demandé à toutes les administrations sanitaires de veiller à ce que leurs ambassades et consulats alignent leur position en matière de certificats de vaccination exigés sur celle de l'administration sanitaire nationale. Pour ce qui concerne particulièrement la variole, il est souligné qu'un certificat de vaccination ne devrait être exigé de la part d'aucun voyageur.