

**Sick, Poor and Infirm, Duty of Incorporated Towns and Cities in Caring For. Incorporated Towns and Cities, Duty Of in Caring for Sick, Poor and Infirm. Quarantines, Establishment and Maintenance Of. Sanitary Laws, Enforcement Of.**

The duty of caring for the sick, poor and infirm rests with the county and the expense thereof is a proper charge against the county.

The municipal authorities of cities and towns, without regard to population, are charged with the duty of enforcing sanitary laws, and the expense thereof is a proper charge against the municipality, as is also the cost of establishing and maintaining quarantines, and caring for all persons afflicted with contagious or infectious diseases who are placed in an isolation hospital for such quarantine.

Helena, Montana, Jan. 17th 1908.

Hon. William A. Beebe,  
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners,  
Thompson, Montana.

Dear Sir:—

I am in receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., submitting the question "whether incorporated towns of less than five thousand inhabitants shall have the caring for their poor during sickness and the establishing and maintaining of quarantines within their incorporate limits, or if they can turn these cases over to the county to be cared for and looked after?"

The duty of caring for the indigent sick, poor and infirm rests with the county authorities and the expense thereof is a proper charge against the county.

Sec. 3200 et seq., Political Code.

The duty of enforcing the sanitary laws within incorporated cities and towns, without regard to population, rests with the municipal authorities of such city, or town and the expense thereof is a proper charge against the municipality, and this includes the establishing and maintenance of quarantine within the limits of such incorporated city or town, and the care of all persons afflicted with contagious or infectious diseases who are placed in quarantine where it is found necessary to remove such person to an isolation hospital.

Secs. 11 and 16, Chap. 110, Laws of 1907.

Very truly yours,

ALBERT J. GALEN,  
Attorney General.