

Decree Law No. 17 of 1990 on Protection from Infectious Diseases

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We, Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar,
Having perused the [Amended Provisional Constitution](#), particularly Articles [23](#), [27](#) and [34](#) thereof;
Decree-Law No. 11 of 1968 on health precautions to prevent infectious diseases;
[Law No. 5 of 1970](#) to determine the authorities of ministers and define the functions of ministries and other governmental agencies, and its amending laws;
[Qatar Penal Code](#) promulgated by Law No. 14 of 1971, and its amending laws;
[Law No. 1 of 1985](#) pertaining to animal health, amended by Law No. 3 of 1990;
The Resolution [No. 4 of 1988](#) by the Minister of Public Health pertaining to the vaccination and immunisation of children against some infectious diseases;
The proposal of the Minister of Public Health;
The Decree-Law draft submitted by the Council of Ministers;
Hereby promulgate the following law:

[Part 1 : Definitions](#)

Article 1

In implementing the provisions of this law, the following and terms shall have the following meanings ascribed to them, unless the context requires otherwise:

- 1-“The Minister” means the Minister of Public Health.
- 2- “The Ministry” means the Ministry of Public Health.
- 3- “The competent health authority” means the Department of Preventive Health.
- 4- “Infectious disease” means a disease transmissible to one individual through contact with another human, animal or insect vector, or through the ingestion of infected or contaminated food, liquids or contact with other contaminated matter;
- 5-“An Infected Person” means a person who has an infectious disease and who may himself be responsible for the further spread of that disease;
- 6-“The Possibly Infected Person” is an individual whose signs, symptoms and medical history suggest infection with a communicable disease;
- 7-“The Contact” means an individual who has had contact with an infected person or a possibly-infected person;
- 8-“Quarantine” means the isolation of the infected person or the possibly infected person in designated sites to

prevent the spread of disease. Access to, or contact with, the infected person, or the person who is suspected of being infected, will be limited to the treatment team and those who are granted permission to visit by the physician in charge.

9-“Decontamination” is the elimination of infectious pathogens by chemical or other means.

Article 2

The infectious diseases subject to the provisions of this law are set forth in the [attached table](#).

The Minister, upon scrutinising proposals by the competent health authority, may refine and update this [table](#) by adding or expunging diseases therefrom, or by transferring diseases from one section to another.

[Part 2 : Health Measures to Prevent the Spread of](#)

Article 3

When a person is diagnosed with a listed infectious disease or is suspected of having an infectious disease, the nearest medical centre or hospital must be notified immediately, in accordance with the provisions of this law; bylaws and executing resolutions thereof. Also, the medical centre or the hospital shall promptly inform the competent health authority.

Article 4

The statutory notification referred to in the previous article shall be the duty of every doctor caring for and involved in the examination and investigation of patients diagnosed with an infectious disease, or in those patients in whom such a diagnosis is suspected. This requirement to notify the relevant authorities shall also be the responsibility of the individual’s close family, their landlord, or those with whom they share accommodation, the director of the university, college or school where the infected person may study; or their line manager if they are in employment and it appears that this infection may have been connected to the person’s employment or place of study. The foreign patient’s sponsor shall inform the relevant authorities if it is thought the infection occurred in the state or abroad.

Article 5

The competent health authority, after receiving notification about an infected individual, or once they are alerted to suspicions that such an infection may have occurred, shall immediately take the necessary measures to prevent

the spread of this disease.

Article 6

The competent health authority may require the isolation or quarantine of the infected individual or individuals suspected of having an infectious disease. This confinement may occur in the hospital or another designated site. The competent health authority may also require close health surveillance of the infected individual, their contacts, or those suspected of being infected by a communicable disease.

The Minister may determine the precautions mentioned in the two preceding paragraphs which must be followed for the diseases of the three sections of the table annexed to this law. The Minister may also determine appropriate measures of health monitoring and the necessary vaccinations to prevent the spread of infection.

Article 7

The competent health authority may, at any time, isolate the infected person, or those persons suspected of having an infectious disease, and their contacts. This isolation may require their suspension from work duties until the disease is no longer transmissible. Such isolation is mandatory for employees who manufacture, prepare or transport food substances and beverages.

Those individuals who are subject to the stipulations of isolation shall be forbidden from returning to work unless and until permission is granted by the competent health authority. It is the responsibility of the infected person's manager or employer to implement this suspension, until isolation is no longer deemed necessary by the competent health authority.

Article 8

It is prohibited to transport the belongings of those infected with a communicable and notifiable disease without first gaining authorisation from the competent health authority. Infected individuals shall themselves also not be transported without this authorization.

Article 9

The competent health authority shall undertake the necessary diagnostic investigations to clarify the infectious status of those suspected of having an infectious disease, or the contacts of these persons.

Article 10

Where an infectious disease is diagnosed, the Minister may authorise the competent health authority to take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection by means of isolation and quarantine, decontamination measures, vaccination, health surveillance and other measures.

Also, the Minister may prevent any kind of public meetings, may authorise the disposal of contaminated food and beverages, may remove public drinking fountains and taps; close communal wells, markets, schools, public cafes or any other public or private institution which may jeopardise public health.

Article 11

Close consideration will be made by the competent health authority regarding the movement and burial of corpses which may have been infected with the communicable disease.

Article 12

The Minister may decide to limit the treatment of certain infectious diseases to government medical institutions only, and may forbid their treatment in private health institutions.

Article 13

Taking into consideration the content of [Article 4](#) of the mentioned law no. 1 of 1985, the animal health section at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, if after doing the necessary tests discovers an infected animal or an animal suspected of having an infectious disease which can be transmitted to humans, shall notify the competent health authority and this authority, in concert with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, shall take the necessary measures to prevent the spread of disease.

Article 14

The Minister may issue, after proposals from the competent health authority, the following necessary decisions to help limit the spread of disease:

1. The isolation, or close health surveillance, of those arriving from abroad.
 2. Determine rigorous health requirements that must be met for the entry of goods, articles and imported materials into the country.
 3. Determine other necessary preventive measures to limit or stop the transmission of infections from human, animal, insect or other sources.
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part 3 : Vaccination against Infectious Diseases

Article 15

Children should be vaccinated regularly against infectious diseases determined by decision of the Minister. Vaccinations shall be carried out according to the stipulations and schedule determined by the competent health authority.

Children may be vaccinated by a physician licensed to practice this profession, and shall furnish the competent authority with certifying documentation that the required vaccinations have been administered.
The father of the child or the person acting *in loco parentis* has the duty to present the child for the vaccination.

Article 16

Pilgrims are subject to vaccination against infectious diseases before leaving the country, in accordance with measures determined by the decision of the competent health authority. These decisions shall be taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases by returning pilgrims.

Article 17

The competent health authority may organise campaigns to vaccinate the population of all or some parts of the state against infectious diseases.
Vaccination may be done by a physician licensed to practice this profession, and it is mandatory to provide evidence of the vaccination schedule as prescribed in the Article [15\(2\)](#) of this law.

Article 18

The vaccination against any infectious disease may be deferred, if the competent physician deems this necessary, or if there is certification to this effect from a licensed physician. Once the circumstances causing this delay no longer apply, the vaccine shall be immediately administered.

Article 19

Any person may present to the competent health authority in order to receive a vaccine effective against any infectious disease, and shall be given certification showing they have received this vaccine.

Part 4 : General provisions

Article 20

The Manager and staff of the competent health authority, each within its competence, shall have the capacity to act as judicial officers to investigate possible violations of the provisions of this law; bylaws and executive decisions thereof. The Manager and staff shall have, at any time, the right to enter the houses and places suspected of being contaminated with infectious diseases, and to take the necessary measures to prevent the spread of these diseases, including, *inter alia* the isolation of patients and their contacts, and measures providing for the necessary vaccination of at-risk people and the decontamination of property and premises. In the course of this activity, the Manager and staff can seek police agents' assistance, if necessary.

Article 21

Without prejudice to any more severe penalty provided by another law, a penalty of imprisonment for a period not exceeding two months and a fine of not more than three thousand Riyals, or one of said penalties, shall apply to whoever infringes the provisions of [Articles 3](#), [4](#), [7\(2-3\)](#), [8](#) and [11](#). A penalty of imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month and a fine of not more than two Thousand (2000) Riyals or one of said penalties, shall apply to whoever violates the provision of [Articles 15\(3\)](#), [16](#) and [17](#).

Article 22

The referred Decree-Law no. 11 of 1968 and any provision violating the provisions of this law shall be repealed. The execution of issued decisions implementing this mentioned Decree-law, which do not contradict the provisions of this law, shall persist till the issuance of its decisions and executive lists.

Article 23

The referred Decree-Law no. 11 of 1968 and any provision violating the provisions of this law shall be repealed. The execution of issued decisions implementing this mentioned Decree-law, which do not contradict the provisions of this law, shall persist till the issuance of its decisions and executive lists.

Article 24

All competent parties, each in its scope, shall undertake the implementation of this law, and it shall be effective after sixty days from the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

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