

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASES ACT,
B.E. 2558 (2015)**

BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ, REX.
Given on the 10th Day of August B.E. 2558;
Being the 70th Year of the Present Reign.

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is graciously pleased to proclaim that:
Whereas it is expedient to revise the law on communicable diseases;
Be it, therefore, enacted by the King by and with the advice and consent of
the National Legislative Assembly, as follows:

Section 1. This Act is called the “Communicable Diseases Act, B.E. 2558 (2015)”.

Section 2. This Act shall come into force after the expiration of one hundred and eighty days from the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.¹

Section 3. The Communicable Diseases Act, B.E. 2523 (1980) shall be repealed.

Section 4. In this Act:
“communicable disease” means a disease caused by pathogens or toxins from pathogens, which is transmissible to humans, directly or indirectly;
“dangerous communicable disease” means a highly virulent communicable disease which is rapidly transmissible to other persons;

* Translated by Ms. Arriya Phasee under contract for the Office of the Council of State of Thailand's Law for ASEAN project. – Tentative Version – subject to final authorisation by the Office of the Council of State.

¹ Published in the Government Gazette Vol. 132, Part 86a, Page 26, dated 8th September B.E. 2558 (2015).

“communicable disease under surveillance” means a communicable disease that requires ongoing monitoring, inspection or data collection;

“epidemic” means a communicable disease or a disease of which the exact cause is unknown, which may be transmitted to other persons rapidly and widely or which has a higher incidence than normally observed;

“carrier” means a human or animal which does not have clinical signs of a communicable disease, but its body gets infected with such disease which may be communicated to other persons;

“contact” means a human who has close contact with humans, animals or physical items infected with a disease to the extent that such disease may be communicated to such person;

“period of communicability” means the period of time in which a pathogen may be transmitted from humans or animals infected with such pathogen to other persons, directly or indirectly;

“isolation” means the separation of a contact or carrier from others in isolated places as to prevent the direct or indirect transmission of pathogens to those who may get infected with such pathogens until the lapse of the period of communicability;

“quarantine” means the restriction of a contact or carrier to isolated places as to prevent the direct or indirect transmission of pathogens to those who may get infected with such pathogens until the lapse of the incubation period or until a carrier status has ended;

“control for observation” means the supervision of a contact or carrier without quarantine, and such contact or carrier may be permitted to transit through any places upon the condition that when reaching any specified locality, such person shall report himself or herself to a local communicable disease control officer for a medical check-up in order to prevent the direct or indirect transmission of pathogens to those who may get infected with such pathogens;

“incubation period” means the period of time from which a pathogen enters a body until the time when the infected person exhibits symptoms of the relevant disease;

“disease infected zone” means any locality or port city outside the Kingdom where a dangerous communicable disease or an epidemic occurs;

“disease investigation” means the procedure to identify causes, sources and reservoirs of diseases for the purpose of disease control;

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“surveillance” means observation and data collection and analysis, as well as reporting and following up on the result of disease transmission on an ongoing and systematic basis for the purpose of disease control;

“conveyance” means a vehicle, animal or object used in transporting humans, animals or physical items on land, water or air;

“conveyance owner” includes an agent of the owner, a lessee, an agent of the lessee or an occupier of such conveyance;

“conveyance operator” means a person responsible for the operation of a conveyance;

“traveller” means a person travelling into the Kingdom, and shall include a conveyance operator and crew members of a conveyance;

“immunisation” means a medical action towards humans or animals by any means to develop disease resistance in them;

“isolated place” means any place where a communicable disease control officer has designated as a place for isolation or quarantine of humans or animals which are, or are suspected of being infected with any communicable disease in order to prevent the direct or indirect transmission of such disease to those who may get infected with such disease;

“sanitation” means the control, protection or maintenance of environmental conditions and contributing factors to the occurrence or transmission of communicable diseases;

“port of entry” means any route or place used for entry and exit of travellers, conveyances and physical items internationally, and shall include areas or zones arranged for providing such service;

“Committee” means the National Communicable Disease Committee;

“Provincial Communicable Disease Committee” means a Provincial Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Committee;

“Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee” means the Bangkok Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Committee;

“State agency” means a central official agency, a regional official agency, a local official agency, a State enterprise, a public organisation and other agencies of the State;

“communicable disease control officer” means a person appointed by the Minister to execute this Act;

“Director-General” means the Director-General of Department of Disease Control;

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“Minister” means the Minister having charge and control over the execution of this Act.

Section 5. The Minister of Public Health shall have charge and control over the execution of this Act and shall have the power to appoint communicable disease control officers, issue Ministerial Regulations prescribing other acts, and issue Rules or Notifications for the execution of this Act.

Such Ministerial Regulations, Rules and Notifications shall come into force upon their publication in the Government Gazette.

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 6. For the purpose of prevention and control of communicable diseases, the Minister by and with the advice of the Committee shall have the power to prescribe the following in the Notifications:

- (1) names and presenting symptoms of dangerous communicable diseases and communicable diseases under surveillance;
- (2) designation of any ports of entry in the Kingdom as international communicable disease control checkpoints and cancellation of international communicable disease control checkpoints;
- (3) immunisation.

Section 7. For the purpose of prevention and control of communicable diseases, the Minister with the approval of the Committee shall have the power to prescribe the following in the Notifications:

- (1) criteria and procedures for notification in the event of occurrence of a dangerous communicable disease, a communicable disease under surveillance or an epidemic;
- (2) criteria, procedures and conditions on implementation or issuance of orders and disease investigation;
- (3) criteria, procedures and conditions in relation to determination of the expenses for conveyance owners or conveyance operators;

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(4) criteria, procedures and conditions of responsibility of travellers for payment of expenses.

Section 8. For the purpose of prevention and control of dangerous communicable diseases or epidemics which may enter the Kingdom, the Minister by and with the advice of the Technical Committee shall have the power to announce the designation of any locality or port city outside the Kingdom as a disease infected zone, and to cancel the announcement when the disease situation has been deemed calm or when there is a valid reason.

Section 9. For the purpose of prevention and control of epidemics, the Director-General by and with the advice of the Technical Committee shall have the power to announce a name, presenting symptoms and places where an epidemic occurs and notify a communicable disease control officer under section 34 for acknowledgement, and to cancel the announcement when the disease situation has been deemed calm or when there is a valid reason.

Section 10. In the case where the information derived from surveillance, disease investigation or notification or reporting under this Act refers to a person who may or may not be identified, such information shall be kept confidential and processed on an anonymous basis, provided that the processing shall be suitable and corresponding to the objectives in preventing and controlling diseases.

A communicable disease control officer may disclose part of the information under paragraph one which is related to treatment, prevention or control of dangerous communicable diseases or epidemic outbreaks which affect the public health, with the consent of an owner of that information or in accordance with the criteria, procedures and conditions prescribed in the Notifications by the Committee.

CHAPTER II NATIONAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE COMMITTEE

Section 11. There shall be a committee called the “National Communicable Disease Committee”, consisting of:

- (1) the Minister of Public Health as Chairperson;

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(2) the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Defence, the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Transport, the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Interior, the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Labour, the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Education, the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Public Health, the Secretary-General of Council of State, the Commissioner-General of Royal Thai Police, the Director-General of Department of Medical Services, the Director-General of Government Public Relations Department, the Director-General of Department of Livestock Development, the Director-General of Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, the Director-General of Department of Medical Sciences, the Director-General of Department of Local Administration, the Director-General of Department of Health, the Director-General of Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation and the Permanent Secretary of Bangkok Metropolitan Administration as members;

(3) members from one representative of the Medical Council of Thailand, one representative of the Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council, one representative of the Medical Technology Council and one representative of the Private Hospital Association;

(4) four qualified members appointed by the Minister from persons having the knowledge, expertise and noticeable experience in public health, disease control and other fields that are beneficial to the prevention and control of communicable diseases, and at least one of which shall be appointed from private development organisations having the objectives not to seek profit and operating public health activities.

The Director-General of Department of Disease Control shall be a member and secretary, and the Director of Bureau of General Communicable Diseases shall be a member and the first assistant secretary and the Director of Bureau of Epidemiology shall be a member and the second assistant secretary.

The qualifications, criteria and procedures for selecting qualified members shall be in accordance with the rules prescribed in the Notifications by the Minister.

Section 12. A qualified member shall hold office for a term of three years.

If a qualified member vacates his or her office prior to the expiration of the term, the Minister shall appoint a replacement qualified member of the same field within thirty days from the date of vacancy. The person appointed to replace the vacated position shall be in office for the remaining term of office of the member whom he or she replaces, unless the remaining term of the qualified member is less than ninety days, in which case, the Minister may not appoint a replacement qualified member, and in this regard, the Committee shall consist of the remaining members.

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Section 13. In addition to vacating office on the expiration of term, a qualified member vacates office upon:

- (1) death;
- (2) resignation;
- (3) being dismissed by the Minister on the grounds of disgraceful behavior, negligence or dishonesty in the performance of the duty or incapability;
- (4) being bankrupt;
- (5) being incompetent or quasi-incompetent;
- (6) being subject to an imprisonment penalty by a final judgement to imprisonment, except for an offence committed through negligence or a petty offence.

Section 14. The Committee shall have the power and duties as follows:

- (1) to establish policies, systems and guidelines on surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases to be implemented by State agencies, Provincial Communicable Disease Committees and the Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee for the execution of this Act;
- (2) to consider approving an action plan for surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases or epidemics and propose the same to the Council of Ministers for approval;
- (3) to provide opinions to the Minister on the issuance of Ministerial Regulations, Rules, Notifications and guidelines for the compliance with this Act;
- (4) to provide consultation and advice and coordinate with State agencies and private agencies in relation to surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases;
- (5) to monitor, evaluate, and investigate the operations of State agencies, Provincial Communicable Disease Committees and the Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee to ensure compliance with the action plan for surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases or epidemics approved by the Council of Ministers under (2);
- (6) to consider approving the criteria, procedures and conditions in relation to disbursement for payment of indemnification, compensation, remuneration or other expenses necessary for conducting the surveillance, disease investigation, prevention or control of communicable diseases;
- (7) to appoint a technical committee or a sub-committee for the execution of this Act;

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(8) to perform any other acts as stipulated in this Act or other laws to be the power and duties of the Committee, or as assigned by the Council of Ministers.

Section 15. At a meeting of the Committee, the presence of not less than one-half of all of the remaining members is required to constitute a quorum.

The Chairperson shall preside over the meeting. If the Chairperson is not present at the meeting or is unable to perform the duties, the members present shall elect one among themselves to preside over the meeting.

A decision of the meeting shall be made by a majority of votes.

In casting a vote, each member shall have one vote. In the case of an equality of votes, the presiding member shall have an additional vote as the casting vote.

Section 16. There shall be a Technical Committee, consisting of a chairperson appointed by qualified members under section 11 (4) and not more than seven members appointed from persons having the knowledge, expertise and experience in communicable diseases.

The Technical Committee shall have the power and duties as follows:

(1) to provide suggestions to the Minister on the announcement of disease infected zones;

(2) to provide suggestions to the Director-General on the announcement of epidemics;

(3) to provide suggestions to the Minister or the Director-General on cancellation of the announcement when the disease situation under (1) or (2), as the case may be, has been deemed calm or when there is a valid reason;

(4) to operate as assigned by the Committee.

The provisions of section 12 and section 13 shall apply, *mutatis mutandis* to the term of office and vacating from office of the Technical Committee.

Section 17. The provision of section 15 shall apply, *mutatis mutandis* to the meetings of the Technical Committee and the sub-committee.

Section 18. In performing the duties under this Act, the Committee, the Technical Committee and the sub-committee shall have the power to issue an order in writing to summon any person to come to give statements of fact or express opinions or furnish any necessary information or documents or suggestions in support of consideration.

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Section 19. The Department of Disease Control shall act as the Office of the Secretary of the Committee, the Technical Committee and the sub-committee, in charge of general affairs, and shall have the power and duties as follows:

(1) to be a central agency responsible for the process for consideration and proposal of policies and systems for surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases;

(2) to establish systems for surveillance of dangerous communicable diseases, communicable diseases under surveillance and epidemics for proposing to the Committee;

(3) to prepare an action plan for surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases or epidemics for proposing to the Committee;

(4) to be the central information centre for publicising or disseminating information and news in relation to surveillance, prevention and control of communicable disease and epidemic situations;

(5) to be a coordination agency for monitoring, evaluating and investigating the operations of Provincial Communicable Disease Committees and the Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee in relation to the implementation of the action plan for surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases or epidemics approved by the Committee, and report the result to the Committee;

(6) to operate, cooperate, support and assist State agencies and private agencies to ensure compliance with policies and plans on surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases;

(7) to promote, support and coordinate in academic works, medical supplies and materials and equipment for surveillance, prevention, control or diagnosis in relation to communicable diseases;

(8) to perform any other acts as assigned by the Committee, the Technical Committee or the sub-committee.

CHAPTER III

PROVINCIAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE COMMITTEE

Section 20. There shall be a Provincial Communicable Disease Committee, consisting of:

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(1) the Provincial Governor as a chairperson;

(2) the Deputy Provincial Governor, the Head of Provincial Public Relations, the Head of Provincial Livestock, the Chief of Provincial Office of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, the Director of the Office of Disease Prevention and Control responsible for such province and the Chief Executive of Provincial Administration Organisation as members;

(3) one Mayor and one Chief Executive of Subdistrict Administration Organisations, who are appointed by the Provincial Governor as members;

(4) one director of medical centre hospitals or general hospitals, two directors of community hospitals and two district health officers, who are appointed by the Provincial Governor as members;

(5) one manager of sanatoriums under the law on sanatoriums, who is appointed by the Provincial Governor as a member.

In the case where, in any province, there are hospitals affiliated with State agencies other than those specified in (4), the Provincial Governor shall appoint not more than three directors of such hospitals as members.

In the case where there is an international communicable disease control checkpoint in any province, the Provincial Governor shall also appoint one communicable disease control officer who is stationed at each of the international communicable disease control checkpoints and one person responsible for the port of entry of each of the checkpoints as members.

The Provincial Public Health Physician shall be a member and secretary, and the Provincial Governor shall appoint not more than two government officials of the Provincial Public Health Office, who operate the work related to disease prevention and control as members and assistant secretaries.

Section 21. The appointment, term of office and vacating from office of the members under section 20 (3), (4) and (5) and the members under section 20, paragraph two shall be in accordance with the criteria, procedures and conditions prescribed in the Notifications by the Committee.

Section 22. A Provincial Communicable Disease Committee shall have the power and duties as follows:

(1) to implement the policies, systems and guidelines on surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases prescribed by the Committee;

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(2) to prepare an action plan for surveillance, prevention and control of dangerous communicable diseases, communicable diseases under surveillance or epidemics in an area of the province;

(3) to report to the Director-General the situation of communicable diseases or diseases of which the exact cause is unknown, which may develop into epidemics occurring in an area of the province;

(4) to support, promote, monitor and evaluate the performance of work of the relevant agencies within the province and report to the Committee;

(5) to establish a port of entry work team under section 23 if there is an international communicable disease control checkpoint at the province;

(6) to summon any person to come to give statements of fact or express opinions or furnish any necessary information or documents or suggestions in support of consideration;

(7) to perform any other acts related to communicable disease control as assigned by the Committee or the Provincial Governor, or as prescribed in this Act.

Section 23. A port of entry work team shall consist of:

(1) an official of State agencies who is responsible for such port of entry as a chairperson of the work team;

(2) a representative of the Department of Livestock Development, a representative of the Department of Agriculture, a representative of the Customs Department, a representative of the Food and Drug Administration and a representative of the Immigration Bureau, who perform the duties at such port of entry as members of the work team;

(3) a director of the hospital affiliated with a State agency and responsible for such port of entry, as a member of the work team;

(4) one communicable disease control officer who is stationed at the international communicable disease control checkpoint as a member and secretary of the work team.

In the case where, at any port of entry, the number of State agency representatives performing the duties at such port of entry is less than the number of agencies required under (2), the work team shall consist of the existing State agency representatives.

In the case where, at any port of entry, the number of State agency representatives performing the duties at such port of entry is more than the number of

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agencies required under (2), the Committee shall have the power to increase the number in the Notifications.

Section 24. A port of entry work team shall have the power and duties over its area of responsibility as follows:

(1) to prepare an action plan for surveillance, prevention and control of global communicable diseases and public health emergency response plan;

(2) to coordinate, support, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the plans under (1);

(3) to prepare a plan to communicate with the agencies related to surveillance, prevention and control of global communicable diseases;

(4) to perform any other acts in relation to surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases as assigned by the Committee or the Provincial Communicable Disease Committee.

Section 25. The provision of section 15 shall apply, *mutatis mutandis* to the meetings of Provincial Communicable Disease Committees and port of entry work teams.

CHAPTER IV

BANGKOK COMMUNICABLE DISEASE COMMITTEE

Section 26. There shall be a Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee, consisting of:

(1) the Governor of Bangkok as a chairperson;

(2) the Permanent Secretary of Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, a representative of the Office of the Permanent Secretary for Interior, a representative of the Department of Disease Control, a representative of the Government Public Relations Department, a representative of the Department of Livestock Development, a representative of the Department of Labour Protection and Welfare, the Director of Medical Service Department, BMA, the Director of Bangkok Fire and Rescue Department and directors of the hospitals affiliated with the Thai Red Cross Society in Bangkok area as members;

(3) one director of the hospitals affiliated with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, one director of the hospitals affiliated with the Department of Medical

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Services, Ministry of Public Health and one director of the Educational Service Area Offices in Bangkok, who are appointed by the Governor of Bangkok as members;

(4) not more than five directors of hospitals affiliated with State agencies other than (3), who are appointed by the Governor of Bangkok as members;

(5) one manager of sanatoriums under the law on sanatoriums in Bangkok area, who is appointed by the Governor of Bangkok as a member;

(6) one communicable disease control officer who is stationed at each of the international communicable disease control checkpoints in Bangkok area, and one person responsible for the port of entry of each of such international communicable disease control checkpoints as members.

The Director of Health Department, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration shall be a member and secretary, and the Governor of Bangkok shall appoint not more than two government officials of the Health Department, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, having a position not lower than a division director, as members and assistant secretaries.

Section 27. The appointment, term of office and vacating from office of the members under section 26 (3), (4) and (5) shall be in accordance with the criteria, procedures and conditions prescribed in the Notifications by the Committee.

Section 28. The Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee shall have the power and duties as follows:

(1) to implement the policies, systems and guidelines on surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases prescribed by the Committee;

(2) to prepare an action plan for surveillance, prevention and control of dangerous communicable diseases, communicable diseases under surveillance or epidemics in an area of Bangkok;

(3) to report to the Director-General the situation of communicable diseases or diseases of which the exact cause is unknown, which may develop into epidemics occurring in an area of Bangkok;

(4) to support, promote, monitor and evaluate the performance of work of the relevant agencies within Bangkok and report to the Committee;

(5) to establish port of entry work teams under section 23;

(6) to summon any person to come to give statements of fact or express opinions or furnish any necessary information or documents or suggestions in support of consideration;

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(7) to perform any other acts related to communicable disease control as assigned by the Committee or the Governor of Bangkok, or as prescribed in this Act.

Section 29. The provision of section 15 shall apply, *mutatis mutandis* to the meetings of the Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee and port of entry work teams.

Section 30. The provisions of section 23 and section 24 shall apply, *mutatis mutandis* to the composition and power and duties of port of entry work teams appointed by the Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee.

CHAPTER V COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Section 31. In the case of occurrence of a dangerous communicable disease, a communicable disease under surveillance or an epidemic, the following persons shall notify a communicable disease control officer:

(1) in the case where a person infected or reasonably suspected of being infected with such communicable disease is found in a house, an owner of the house or a person in charge of the house or a physician who provides treatment;

(2) in the case where a person infected or reasonably suspected of being infected with such communicable disease is found in a sanatorium, a person responsible for the sanatorium;

(3) in the case where medical or veterinarian examination has been conducted and it is found that a pathogen which is a cause of such communicable disease may exist, a person who conducts the examination or a person responsible for the place where the examination takes place;

(4) in the case where a person infected or reasonably suspected of being infected with such communicable disease is found in a business facility or any other place, an owner or a person controlling such place.

The criteria and procedures on the notification under paragraph one shall be as prescribed in the Notifications by the Minister with the approval of the Committee.

Section 32. When a communicable disease control officer has been notified under section 31 that there is a suspicion, information or evidence of the occurrence of a

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dangerous communicable disease, a communicable disease under surveillance or an epidemic, the communicable disease control officer shall notify the Provincial Communicable Disease Committee or the Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee, as the case may be, and report that information to the Department of Disease Control at prompt.

Section 33. In the case where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a dangerous communicable disease, a communicable disease under surveillance or an epidemic has occurred in foreign countries, the Department of Disease Control shall coordinate with the World Health Organisation to request for information related to such disease.

CHAPTER VI PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Section 34. For the purpose of prevention and control of communicable diseases, when a dangerous communicable disease or an epidemic has occurred or is suspected of having occurred in any area, a communicable disease control officer in such area shall have the power to carry out, or issue a written order instructing any person to carry out the following:

(1) to require persons who are infected or reasonably suspected of being infected with the dangerous communicable disease or epidemic, or who are contacts or carriers to have a check-up or treatment or medical examination and, for the purpose of safety, such persons may be isolated, quarantined or controlled for observation at places specified by the communicable disease control officer until such persons have had a check-up and medical examination and it is confirmed that the period of communicability has passed or such suspicion has been dispelled. In the case of an animal, an owner or occupier of the animal shall take the animal to have a check-up or treatment or medical examination;

(2) to require persons at risk of being infected with the disease to receive immunisation on the date, time and place as prescribed by the communicable disease control officer in order to prevent the transmission of the dangerous communicable disease

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or epidemic. In the case of an animal, an owner or occupier of the animal shall take the animal to receive the protection against the disease;

(3) to take corpses or carcasses of the persons or animals which are dead or are suspected of being dead of the dangerous communicable disease or epidemic to have an examination or medical management or to be dealt with by any other means in order to prevent the transmission of the disease;

(4) to require owners, occupiers or residents in the houses, tenements, places or conveyances where the dangerous communicable disease or epidemic occurs to conduct a disinfection and destroy anything contaminated, or reasonably suspected of being contaminated with pathogens of the communicable disease or to improve sanitation to ensure hygienic conditions in order to control and prevent the transmission of the disease. The persons receiving the order of instruction shall comply with it until the communicable disease control officer has ordered to cancel the same;

(5) to require owners, occupiers or residents in the houses, tenements, places or conveyances where the dangerous communicable disease or epidemic occurs to prevent the transmission of the disease by eliminating the animals, insects or immature insects which are a cause of the occurrence of the dangerous communicable disease or epidemic;

(6) to prohibit any person from carrying out or performing any act which may cause unhygienic conditions that may result in the transmission of the dangerous communicable disease or epidemic;

(7) to prohibit any person from entering or exiting isolated places, unless permission from the communicable disease control officer has been obtained;

(8) to enter the houses, tenements, places or conveyances where the dangerous communicable disease or epidemic has occurred or is suspected of having occurred for the purpose of surveillance, prevention and control to prevent the transmission of the disease.

In carrying out the actions under paragraph one, the communicable disease control officer shall conduct a disease investigation and if it is found that a dangerous communicable disease or an epidemic has occurred in any area, the communicable disease control officer shall notify the Provincial Communicable Disease Committee or the Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee, as the case may be, and report that information to the Department of Disease Control at prompt.

The criteria, procedures and conditions for carrying out an action or issuing a written order under paragraph one and for conducting a disease investigation under

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paragraph two, shall be as prescribed in the Notifications by the Minister with the approval of the Committee.

Section 35. In the case of urgent necessity to prevent the transmission of dangerous communicable diseases or epidemics, the Provincial Governor with the approval of the Provincial Communicable Disease Committee or the Governor of Bangkok with the approval of the Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee, shall have the power over his or her area of responsibility as follows:

(1) to order the temporary closure of market places, cooking or food selling places, beverage producing or selling places, factories, public meeting places, theaters, educational institutes or any other places;

(2) to instruct persons infected or reasonably suspected of being infected with a dangerous communicable disease or an epidemic to temporarily cease performing their occupations;

(3) to order prohibiting persons infected or reasonably suspected of being infected with a dangerous communicable disease or an epidemic from entering public meeting places, theaters, educational institutes or any other places, unless permission from a communicable disease control officer has been obtained.

Section 36. The Provincial Governor with the approval of the Provincial Communicable Disease Committee or the Governor of Bangkok with the approval of the Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee, as the case may be, shall establish at least one communicable disease control operation unit in each *Amphoe* or district to conduct surveillance, disease investigation, prevention and control of dangerous communicable diseases or epidemics. The criteria on establishment of communicable disease control operation units shall be as prescribed in the Notifications by the Committee.

A communicable disease control operation unit under paragraph one shall at least consist of one communicable disease control officer and two medical and public health officials, and officials of other related agencies or private agencies in the number deemed appropriate by the Provincial Governor or the Governor of Bangkok may be appointed in a communicable disease control operation unit.

Section 37. A person responsible for a port of entry shall comply with the procedures on surveillance, prevention and control of global communicable diseases at the area of the port of entry as follows:

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- (1) to manage environmental sanitation to ensure hygienic conditions and eliminate materials which may be harmful to health;
- (2) to manage sanitation in relation to food and water to ensure hygienic conditions;
- (3) to eliminate mosquitos and carriers of a disease;
- (4) to comply with any other procedures as prescribed in the Notifications by the Committee.

Section 38. A communicable disease control officer stationed at an international communicable disease control checkpoint shall, with reasonable justification, have the power to patrol, control and supervise the area outside the port of entry and notify a local officer to carry out to eliminate mosquitos and carriers of a disease covering a radius of four hundred meters around the port of entry. In this regard, owners or persons in the houses, tenements or places in such area shall render appropriate facilities to the communicable disease control officer stationed at the international communicable disease control checkpoint and the local officer.

Section 39. In conducting prevention and control of global communicable diseases, when there are reasonable grounds or there is a suspicion that a conveyance comes from any locality or port city outside the Kingdom where there is an epidemic, the communicable disease control officer stationed at an international communicable disease control checkpoint shall have the power and duties as follows:

- (1) to require the conveyance owner or conveyance operator to notify a specified arrival date, time and place of such conveyance at the international communicable disease control checkpoint to a communicable disease control officer stationed at the international communicable disease control checkpoint;
- (2) to require the conveyance owner or conveyance operator whose conveyance has entered the Kingdom to submit documents to a communicable disease control officer stationed at the international communicable disease control checkpoint;
- (3) to prohibit any person from entering or leaving the conveyance travelling into the Kingdom which has not been inspected by a communicable disease control officer stationed at the international communicable disease control checkpoint, and to prohibit any person from bringing any other conveyance up alongside such conveyance, unless permission from a communicable disease control officer stationed at the international communicable disease control checkpoint has been obtained;

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(4) to enter the conveyance and examine travellers, physical items or animals in the conveyance, and to inspect and control the conveyance owner or conveyance operator to improve sanitation of the conveyance to ensure hygienic conditions, as well as to eliminate materials in the conveyance which may be harmful to health. In this regard, the conveyance owner or conveyance operator shall provide convenience to the communicable disease control officer stationed at the international communicable disease control checkpoint;

(5) to prohibit the conveyance owner or conveyance operator from bringing into the Kingdom travellers who have not received immunisation as prescribed in the Notifications by the Minister by and with the advice of the Committee.

The notification and the submission of documents by the conveyance owner or conveyance operator under (1) and (2), and the prohibition for the conveyance owner or conveyance operator under (5) shall be in accordance with the criteria, procedures and conditions prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

Section 40. When the Minister has announced the designation of any locality or port city outside the Kingdom as a disease infected zone under section 8, a communicable disease control officer stationed at the international communicable disease control checkpoint shall have the power to carry out, or issue a written order instructing the conveyance owner or conveyance operator whose conveyance has entered the Kingdom from such locality or port city to carry out the following:

(1) to conduct a disinfection in order to prevent and control the transmission of the disease;

(2) to arrange the conveyance to park at a specified place until a communicable disease control officer stationed at the international communicable disease control checkpoint has permitted it to leave;

(3) to require travellers in such conveyance to have a medical check-up and, in this regard, the travellers may be isolated, quarantined or controlled for observation or may receive immunisation at a specified place and time;

(4) to prohibit any person from entering or leaving such conveyance or isolated places, unless permission from a communicable disease control officer stationed at the international communicable disease control checkpoint has been obtained;

(5) to prohibit any person from taking objects, physical items or appliances, which are, or are suspected of being disease-infected material, into or out of such

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conveyance, unless permission from a communicable disease control officer stationed at the international communicable disease control checkpoint has been obtained.

Section 41. A conveyance owner or conveyance operator shall be responsible for the expenses for transporting travellers in the conveyance for the purpose of isolation, quarantine, control for observation or receipt of immunisation, including the expenses for taking care of or providing medical treatment for them and for conducting prevention and control of global communicable diseases under section 40 and other related expenses.

Determination of the expenses arising from the actions under paragraph one shall be in accordance with the criteria, procedures and conditions prescribed in the Notifications by the Minister with the approval of the Committee.

Section 42. In the case where it is found that a traveller is infected or is reasonably suspected of being infected with a dangerous communicable disease or an epidemic, or a traveller is a carrier or is reasonably suspected of being a carrier of a disease, a communicable disease control officer stationed at the international communicable disease control checkpoint shall have the power to order such person to be isolated, quarantined or controlled for observation, or to receive immunisation.

The expenses arising from the actions under paragraph one shall be borne by such traveller in accordance with the criteria, procedures and conditions prescribed in the Notifications by the Minister with the approval of the Committee.

Section 43. For the purpose of prevention of global communicable diseases or epidemics, the Director-General or a person assigned by the Director-General shall have the power to issue a certificate of immunisation or a certificate of receipt of preventive medicine for global communicable diseases or other certificates to the applicant at the expense of the applicant.

The assignment or the collection or exemption of expenses shall be in accordance with the criteria, procedures and conditions prescribed in the Notifications by the Committee.

Section 44. In the case where a communicable disease control officer has ordered any person to carry out any action under section 34 (3), (4) or (5), section 38, section 39 (4) or section 40 (1), (2) or (3), but such person fails to comply with the order

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within a specified period of time, the communicable disease control officer shall have the power to carry out such action in lieu of such person, provided that such person shall reimburse the actual expenses arising from such action in accordance with the Rules prescribed by the Ministry of Public Health.

CHAPTER VII COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL OFFICERS

Section 45. In the execution of this Act, a communicable disease control officer shall have the power as follows:

(1) to issue a written summons to any person to come to give statements, facts or written explanations or furnish any documents or evidence for examination or in support of consideration;

(2) to enter conveyances, buildings or any other places during the period from sunrise to sunset or during office hours of such buildings or places for the purpose of inspection or control to ensure compliance with this Act, and if the action is not completed within such time, it may be further taken until its completion.

The implementation under (2) shall be in accordance with the criteria, procedures and conditions prescribed by the Director-General.

In the execution of the duties of the communicable disease control officer under (2), the person concerned shall render appropriate facilities.

Section 46. There shall be a uniform, badge and identification card for communicable disease control officers to identify themselves while performing their duties to the concerned persons.

The uniform, badge and identification card under paragraph one shall be in accordance with the form prescribed in the Notifications by the Ministry of Public Health.

Section 47. In the execution of the duties under this Act, the communicable disease control officer shall be an officer under the Criminal Code.

CHAPTER VIII
COMPENSATION

Section 48. In performing the act by a communicable disease control officer under this Act, if damage has occurred to any person or property of any person from the surveillance, prevention or control of diseases, the official service shall pay compensation for the damage occurred to such person as necessary.

Reimbursement of the damage under paragraph one shall be in accordance with the criteria, procedures and conditions prescribed in the Ministerial Regulations.

CHAPTER IX
PENALTY PROVISIONS

Section 49. Any person who fails to comply with the order of the Committee, the Technical Committee or the sub-committee under section 18 or the order of a Provincial Communicable Disease Committee under section 22 (6) or the order of the Bangkok Communicable Disease Committee under section 28 (6) or the order of a communicable disease control officer under section 45 (1), shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not exceeding one month or to a fine not exceeding ten thousand baht or to both.

Section 50. Any person who fails to comply with the criteria and procedures on the notification under section 31 shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty thousand baht.

Section 51. Any person who violates or fails to comply with the order of a communicable disease control officer under section 34 (1), (2), (5) or (6), section 39 (1), (2), (3) or (5), section 40 (5), or fails to provide convenience to a communicable disease control officer under section 39 (4), shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty thousand baht.

Section 52. Any person who violates or fails to comply with the order of a communicable disease control officer under section 34 (3), (4), (7) or (8) or section 40 (3) or (4) or of a Provincial Governor or the Governor of Bangkok under section 35, shall be liable

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to imprisonment for a term of not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand baht or to both.

Section 53. Any person who fails to provide convenience to a communicable disease control officer or a local officer under section 38 shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty thousand baht.

Section 54. Any conveyance owner or conveyance operator who fails to comply with the order of a communicable disease control officer under section 40 (2) shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not exceeding two years or to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand baht or to both.

Section 55. Any person who obstructs or fails to provide convenience to a communicable disease control officer under section 45, paragraph three shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty thousand baht.

Section 56. Any person who does not have the right to wear the uniform or insignia of a communicable disease control officer under section 46, but does so in order to make other persons believe that he or she has the right to do so, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand baht or to both.

Section 57. All offences under this Act which are only punishable by a fine or by imprisonment for a term of not exceeding one year may be settled by the Director-General or a person appointed by the Director-General in accordance with the settlement criteria prescribed by the Committee.

Upon payment by the accused of the settled amount of the fine within thirty days from the settlement date, the case shall be deemed settled under the Criminal Procedure Code.

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TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Section 58. A public health officer under the Communicable Diseases Act, B.E. 2523 (1980) shall be the communicable disease control officer under this Act until the latter has been appointed under this Act.

Section 59. At the initial term, the Committee shall consist of the members under section 11, except the qualified members under section 11 (4), and shall provisionally perform the duties of the Committee under this Act until the qualified members under this Act have been appointed, which shall not be later than one hundred and eighty days from the effective date of this Act.

Section 60. All Ministerial Regulations, Rules, Notifications or Orders issued under the Communicable Diseases Act, B.E. 2523 (1980) in effect prior to the effective date of this Act shall continue in force insofar as they are not in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act until the Ministerial Regulations, Rules or Notifications under this Act come into force.

The issuance of Ministerial Regulations, Rules or Notifications under paragraph one shall be completed within one year from the effective date of this Act. If the deadline cannot be met, the Minister shall report the reasons for such inability to the Council of Ministers for acknowledgement.

Countersigned by:

General Prayut Chan-o-cha
Prime Minister

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