

Public Health Protection Bill

Chapter 1 Preliminary

- Introduction and citation 1 (a) The purpose of this act is to establish policies for protection of public health, identify persons responsible for protection of public health, define how public health protection policies will be implemented and establish policies to limit basic rights ensured under the Maldives Constitution to Maldivians and people living in Maldives to necessary extents to protect public health
- (b) This Act shall be cited as 'Public Health Protection Act'
- Objectives 2 The main objectives of this Act are listed below
- (a) Establish main policies to protect public health in Maldives
- (b) Identify persons responsible for protection of public health in Maldives, determine the structure they would be placed and their main responsibilities
- (c) Identify communicable, dangerous and notifiable diseases, and policies on how such diseases can be classified
- (d) Identify lifestyle related diseases and non communicable diseases, increase public awareness on such diseases and establish policies to protect public from such diseases
- (e) Establish policies to respond to public health emergencies
- (f) Classify situations which may be harmful to health and establish methods to act in such a situation
- (g) Establish roles and responsibilities of island, atoll and city councils in protection of public health
- (h) Make each Maldivian citizen a responsible and accountable person with regard to public health protection
- (i) Identify offenses which restrict ensuring public health protection and determine punishments for such offences
- Limiting rights 3 Rights can be limited under this Act to the extent and proportion which is absolutely necessary for the following reasons. If there is danger of disease spreading in public, possibility of communicable diseases, prevention of a disease which is previously known, response to emergencies or danger to an individual's health.

Chapter 2
Implementation of Act

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| Person responsible for Public Health | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) The Minister holds all responsibilities of protecting and maintaining public health and increasing awareness of citizens of Maldives and people living in Maldives(b) The Minister hold main responsibilities of implementing and executing this Act(c) Under this Act the Minister has all powers required to fulfill all responsibilities, including powers stated and not stated in this Act, or to accomplish what is stated as responsibilities of Minister under this Act |
| Decentralization | 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) In order to facilitate island and city councils to execute their responsibilities in implementing this Act in their regions and to give legal authority to the process the Minister has the power to appoint an agent to a council, group of councils or region represented by councils to implement this Act in that region(b) Any responsibilities or powers delegated to island, atoll and city councils under (a) of this part or any responsibilities in implementing this Act must be delegated by the Minister to the councils only after providing all public health protection resources necessary to implement this Act and after establishing a system for the work of public health maintenance. Such systems and resources must be established to be used separately from health services resources and systems in the regions represented by councils.(c) Minister has the authority and power over island, atoll and city councils, persons responsible for protection of public health, persons working to increase awareness on public health and people working to maintain public health and well being.(d) All responsibilities under this Act must be delegated at the island, atoll or city council level in writing with roles and responsibilities clearly stated(e) All responsibilities delegated to the island, atoll or city council under this Act must be extensively explained in a regulation developed under this Act and the regulation must be published and gazetted. |
| Formation of Health Protection Agency | 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Under this part of this Act an agency named 'Health Protection Agency' is formed to undertake the responsibilities and work in the front line to protect and maintain public health and increase awareness of citizens of Maldives and people living in Maldives(b) The head of the agency stated in (a) of this part is Director General of |

Public Health. This position is created under this part of this Act. Civil Service Commission will employ a person for this position. This position is a Civil Service position created according to Act number 5/2007 Civil Services Act. The person selected for this position must have a master's degree in a field of public health.

(c) Director General will work under general instruction of Minister.

(d) Director General of Agency will be answerable to the Minister.

Jurisdiction of
Health
Protection
Agency

7 The following is what is included in the jurisdiction of the agency. Unless otherwise defined in this Act, all responsibilities of the following must be held by agency.

(a) Consult with civil service commission to compile positions stating skills required and responsibilities for the positions stated in 10 (a) of this Act and positions created under that part.

(b) Determine which programmes to be conducted to protect public health, identify aims, standards for conducting programmes, and how programmes will be conducted.

(c) Make it compulsory for all health service facilities and centers in the jurisdiction of the councils to follow the aims, standards and procedures according to (b)

(d) Identify health hazards, communicable diseases, dangerous diseases, notifiable diseases, determine the extent of spread of such diseases and work to determine which responses can be given if such a disease is spreading

(e) Control introduction of health hazards and infectious diseases from other countries, and take necessary measures to control spread of such dangerous diseases in Maldives

(f) Inform and provide necessary instructions to health centers under the jurisdiction of councils on steps to take to eliminate, control or minimize risk from dangers which can arise from communicable diseases, dangerous diseases or health hazards

(g) Establish agreements with foreign countries or agencies to implement this Act and protect public health and conduct programmes in association with such countries and agencies.

(h) Establish a public health laboratory with appropriate staff and equipments. Laboratory should be to the extent required for public health protection. Determine which services would be provided by the laboratory, and ensure continuity of these services.

- (i) Conduct projects and programmes to identify the extent to which communicable diseases and dangerous diseases are spread in Maldives or the possibilities of spread of such diseases. Develop policies, organize programmes and prepare practical work tables on how to respond in the event of introduction of such a disease
- (j) Develop policies communication methods, and steps to take in the event of health emergency, spread of an infectious disease, spread of a dangerous disease or Maldives declares a state of public health emergency.
- (k) Organize public health services and take necessary steps to protect public health
- (l) If any possible disease spreading agents is seen in an areas where people live, necessary orders can be issued according to regulations under this Act to control or eliminate such risks and under the Act the owners are obligated to obey such orders.
- (m) Develop general hygiene standards to maintain public health and implement these standards.
- (n) Work to control lifestyle diseases and maintain general well being of society.
- (o) In the event of a public health emergency, identify and review how the emergency happened, which steps were taken, what changes were brought about with these steps, difficulties faced in stopping the emergency, steps to take if such a situation arise again and things which must be improved in the future. Prepare a report including all this information and present to the Minister.
- (p) Prepare a report on steps taken regarding dangerous diseases, communicable diseases and notifiable diseases. Report must be presented to the Minister before end of January each year.

Public Health
Protection,
Director
General of
Public Health

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- (a) Director General can give instruction to the extent necessary on protection of public health in a specific place, time or situation , prepare documents and provide public health information through these documents.
- (b) Any action Director General takes under (a) must be informed to the Minister as soon as possible with information on how the situation happened, why and how actions were taken.
- (c) The Director General must take all necessary steps as he/she sees fit and to the necessary extent to stop, eliminate or minimize public health risks

in any specific area or place depending on appropriate proof of risk.

Delegation of power 9

- (a) Specific powers or responsibilities on the Minister under this Act can be delegated to the Director General.
- (b) If any responsibilities under this Act are delegated Director General must take these responsibilities as if it is directly stated in this Act.
- (c) The Minister has the power to delegate specific powers and specific responsibilities to a certain category of people, or people in certain positions instead of to an individual.
- (d) Any person delegated a specific power or responsibility under this Act, at the time of implementing these responsibilities, he/she must be considered to be working within the powers and responsibilities delegated under this Act, unless proved otherwise
- (e) Specific powers delegated by Minister under this Act to an individual or category of people must be given in writing and these powers and responsibilities can be revoked in writing. Delegating a specific power to another person does not limit the Minister from directly executing these powers.

Selecting people for specific positions 10

- (a) It is a responsibility of Civil Service Commission to create the following positions for the health protection agency, determine required qualifications, allocate salaries and allowances according to Act No 5/2007 (Civil Services Act), and select people for these positions. Under part 7 (a) of this Act, health protection agency must provide required information and suggestions to Civil Service Commission.
 - 1. Medical Officer
 - 2. Public Health Officer
 - 3. Environmental Health Officer
 - 4. Port Health Officer
 - 5. Veterinary Health Officer
 - 6. Food Safety Officer
 - 7. Family Health Officer
 - 8. Community Health Officer
 - 9. Public Health Inspector
 - 10. Epidemiologist
 - 11. Legal Officer
 - 12. Statistician
- (b) In addition to the positions stated in (a), Civil Service Commission must create all other technical and administrative positions necessary for functioning of the agency, determine required qualifications and allocate salaries and allowances according to Act No 5/2007 (Civil Services Act)
- (c) The roles and responsibilities of each position created under (a) and (b)

must be prepared for the Civil Service Commission by the Director General with consultation with Minister.

Chapter 3 Communicable Diseases

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| Identifying communicable diseases | 11 | <p>(a) All diseases which would be considered as communicable diseases under this Act must be defined in a regulation made under this Act. These diseases must be identified according to proven academic research, past experiences and international practices.</p> <p>(b) In addition to defining communicable diseases under (a), and stating these diseases in a regulation under this Act, general policies for determination of a specific disease as a communicable disease must be developed with reference to proven academic research, past experiences and international practices</p> |
| Powers to Director General with regard to communicable diseases | 12 | <p>(a) If there is sufficient proof to prove to the Director General that an individual has a communicable disease or has the possibility of contracting a communicable disease, under the following situations, the Director General has the power to order individual with the disease, individual having the possibility of contracting disease or individual exposed to contagious material to refrain from certain activities, stop certain activities or to do certain activities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. If an individual is identified to have a disease or possible to have a disease and if there is a risk of spreading of this disease2. If the communicable disease identified can pose a public health risk3. If it is believed that the situation requires ordering to do certain activities or refrain from certain activities to protect public health4. If a communicable disease spreading agent, an item or person contaminated with such an agent is identified <p>(b) Director General must determine the completion date or duration of activities to be conducted under orders issued under (a)</p> <p>(c) In addition to the activities in (a), Director General can order the following with orders under (a)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To completely close down a specific building or part of building or restrict entry and exit from a building.2. Display a specific sign outside a building3. Temporarily or permanently stop a service provided or work done in a specific building or place.4. Quarantine patients with infectious diseases and persons exposed to contaminated conditions5. Isolate patients with infectious diseases and persons exposed to contaminated conditions6. Clean and disinfect the place where an infected person lives, works or provide any services |

7. Eliminate specific items found in specific buildings
 8. Take the individual to which the order is issued to doctors for examination
 9. After examination of individual doctor or hospital must inform the Director General on issues identified by doctor, whether the person has or don't have a communicable disease or an agent which can spread a communicable disease
 10. Order an individual with a communicable disease or individual exposed to communicable disease to go under the care of a hospital
 11. Quarantine a vessel carrying a patient with a communicable disease or person exposed to such disease conditions, quarantine a vessel which has possibility of carrying disease causing agents or eliminate such agents from that vessel.
- (d) If an individual with a communicable disease or individual exposed to communicable disease is examined under orders from Director General according to (a) and (c) without the consent of that individual it would not be considered as obstructing the individuals independence or violence against the individual.

Enforcement of general rules related to orders 13 General rules described in part 28 of this act will apply for all orders issued by the Director General under part 12 of this Act to the relevant extent.

Request for court order 14 (a) If an individual refused to follow any orders issued under part 12 of this Act or refuses to do any of the following, Director General has the authority to apply for a court order from the Civil Court to implement the order

1. Obstruct quarantine
2. Obstruct isolation
3. Obstruct doctor's consultation
4. Obstruct going under a doctor's care
5. Obstruct steps to prevent spread of disease to other people
6. Obstruct inspection of a building or place

(b) Orders issued by Civil Court for any cases submitted under (a), can be to used to search for, restraint or arrest a specific person and do to him what was ordered by the Director General. The Court or the Director General can seek assistance from Police to carry out such an order.

(c) The Court has the authority to order one or more of the following rulings for a case submitted under (a)

1. To obey orders of Director General
2. Arrest and detain the person in a quarantine facility
3. Arrest and detain the person in an isolation facility
4. Arrest and take for a doctor's consultation
5. If the individual is proved to have a communicable disease Director

General can order to give treatment to the individual

6. Inspect and test a building or place

(d) If an individual is examined by a doctor under court orders described in (c) without the consent of that individual it would not be considered as obstructing the individuals independence or violence against the individual

Reporting and Monitoring 15

(a) If a doctor examines a patient with a communicable disease upon orders of Director General under part 12 or 14 of this Act, the doctor or hospital must send information on nature, type and extent of disease and what was done for treatment to the Director General

(b) The Director General can appoint a staff from the agency to follow up on an individual after examination by a doctor upon an order under this Act

Extension of Treatment and Detention Period 16

(a) The Civil Court has the Authority to extend the period of detention of an individual ordered for treatment in detention, quarantine or isolation by part 14 of this Act if by the end of court ordered period the individual still has the disease or has not fully recovered from disease or if there is a possibility of the disease spreading via the individual.

(b) Any person detained must be released from detention, quarantine or isolation facility only with written consent from Director General

Respecting orders of Director General 17

(a) When the Director General issues an order under part 12 of this Act, or determine quarantine and isolation facilities according to any regulations under this Act or if a person or group of people are quarantined or isolated for treatment, such orders must be respected and each person must give their cooperation to protect public health and control communicable diseases.

(b) It is considered as an offence if the an individual or group of people are quarantined or isolated for treatment without the cooperation as in (a) or if such treatment work is obstructed or if a person obstructs the operation of a quarantine or isolation facility. The offense can be punishable by a fine of maximum MVR 5000 (five thousand Maldivian Rufiya)

Vaccination Program 18

(a) Director General can decide to give general vaccines to a specific social level of people to prevent contraction or spreading of communicable diseases. Or the Director General can organize to conduct special vaccination programmes.

(b) Director General can make it compulsory for a specific social level of people to join the programmes conducted under (a).

(c) If a person refuses to take part in a programme under (a) and (b), vaccine

can be administered under court order

- (d) If any person stated as compulsory to take part in programmes conducted under (a) and (b) by the Director General, refuses to take part in the programme or refuses to participate any individual under the care of less than 18 (eighteen) years of age it is considered as an offence punishable by a fine of maximum MVR 3,000 (three thousand Maldivian Rufiya)

Death due to a dangerous disease 19

- (a) In the event of death due to a dangerous disease, the body must be lifted, handled, transported and buried according to regulation developed under this Act.
- (b) The body of a person who died from a dangerous disease can be exhumed, transported to another location and reburied in a different location or back in the same location according to the regulation developed under this Act.

Chapter 4 Lifestyle diseases

Identification of lifestyle diseases 20

- (a) All diseases which would be considered as lifestyle diseases under this Act must be defined in a regulation made under this Act. These diseases must be identified according to proven academic research, past experiences and international practices.
- (b) In addition to defining lifestyle diseases under (a), and stating these diseases in a regulation under this Act, general policies for determination of a specific disease as a lifestyle disease must be developed with reference to proven academic research, past experiences and international practices

Activities for control 21

The Director General must do the following to control lifestyle diseases and to minimize risk of contraction of such diseases

- (a) Identify what type of lifestyle diseases are faced by Maldivians or spread in Maldives and determine which type or social level of people are facing these diseases
- (b) Conduct projects, programmes and activities to promote health and well being and to increase awareness on lifestyle diseases.
- (c) Establish screening and early detection mechanisms for lifestyle diseases
- (d) Organize the structure so that all parties involved in areas related to prevention of lifestyle diseases understand the seriousness of the issue and work in coordination with each other

- (e) Encourage thinking on issues that need to be corrected in the general environment, food stuffs, general practices and work place. Support spreading of such types of thinking and introduce relevant standards to maintain well being.
- (f) Find out ways Maldives can share lifestyle disease related information and experience with foreign countries and organizations. Identify issues in Maldives which need to be changed or corrected to ensure public well being. Conduct projects and programmes in association with foreign organization and governments to build and maintain a healthy society in Maldives and develop health standards.

Chapter 5
Health Hazard

Identifying Health Hazards	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) All hazards which would be considered as health hazards under this Act must be defined in a regulation made under this Act. These hazards must be identified according to proven academic research, past experiences and international practices. (b) In addition to defining health hazards under (a), and stating these hazards in a regulation under this Act, general policies for determination of a specific hazard as a lifestyle health hazard must be developed with reference to proven academic research, past experiences and international practices
Estimating Risk	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) In the event of a health hazard or possibility of health hazard the agency can do a study to estimate the extent of effects and level of risks posed by that hazard. (b) In the event of a health hazard or possibility of a health hazard it is the responsibility of the agency to establish systems and monitor levels of risk or extent of possible risks
Making it compulsory to report health hazards	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) If the information of a health hazard is received, the people or category of people who must report this to the Director General must be stated in a regulation under this Act (b) In the event of a health hazard, or if information of a hazard is received and there is sufficient proof for a person mentioned in a regulation under this Act to believe that there is a health hazard the Director General must be informed immediately without delay.
Steps taken by Director General with regard to health hazards	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) If there is sufficient proof for the Director General to believe there is a health hazard or possibility of health hazard, or if the Director General believes that steps must be taken to reduce health risks from a hazard or protection steps must be taken, the Director General must make haste to take the necessary steps.

- (b) If written communication may delay the response in the event of a health hazard, the Director General can decide to issue verbal directives
- (c) If verbal directives are given under (b), the Director General must put the main points of the directive in writing and send to the person or party the directive was given within 72 (Seventy Two) hours after verbal communication.

Recipient of orders regarding building

26 The Director General has the authority to order the following people in relation to a building, if there is a health hazard or if there is sufficient proof for the Director General to believe that there is a possibility of a health hazard and if the Director General believes that steps must be taken to ensure protection from a health hazard from a specific building.

- (a) Owner of building or tenants of the building or the person responsible for the building.
- (b) Person responsible for a tree, animal, bird or anything else in the building.
- (c) Person responsible for any gas, water, liquid or solid ejected from the building.
- (d) Person responsible for any vapor, heat, vibration, noise or radiation coming from the building.
- (e) Persons involved in any activities inside the building.
- (f) Any person in a category stated in a regulation under this Act

Things that can be ordered to be done or not done in relation to a building

27 The following things can be ordered by the Director General to the recipient of an order under part 26 of this Act

- (a) Abandon the building
- (b) Empty the building
- (c) Close down the building
- (d) Prevent entry and exit to the building
- (e) Display a sign outside the building stating that the building is closed
- (f) Remove or eradicate any health hazard in the building
- (g) Clean or disinfect the building

- (h) Destroy or eliminate a specific object in the building
- (i) Prohibit the production, manufacture, storage, use, display or move a specific object in the building
- (j) To do or not do specific activities in the building
- (k) Order a person inside the building or the receipt of order to be examined by a doctor
- (l) Isolate, conceal or pack a specific object in the building
- (m) Investigate any material in the building or material coming out of the building to determine whether such material is a health hazard to the surrounding environment or not.

General guidelines regarding orders about buildings

28 The following guidelines will stand for building related orders by the Director General under parts 26 and 27 of this Act.

- (a) The purpose of the order must be to take necessary steps to the necessary extent to eliminate or reduce health risk
- (b) The reasons for the order must be stated clearly in the order
- (c) All steps to be taken under the order must be clearly stated
- (d) The recipient of the order must be given proper opportunity to act on the order
- (e) Orders under this Act can be given from hand to hand or sent as a registered letter
- (f) The recipient of an order under this Act, must act on the order immediately upon receiving the order. If a time period is given for an activity the activity must be completed within that time period
- (g) The recipient can be ordered to inform activities in the order to people specified in the order
- (h) The date of completion of all activities in the order must be mentioned in the order
- (i) Time period specified in order can be extended or order can be withdrawn or amended.

Power to make it compulsory to

29 (a) If the recipient of an order under parts 26 and 27 of this Act does not respond to the order, is not responding to the order, recipient is difficult

obey orders		<p>to locate, or if the Director General believes that the order cannot be delivered to the recipient soon enough, the Director General has the authority to select staff from the agency to enter the building with identification cards or documents and carry out the activities in the order and use the necessary amount of force needed to carry out the orders.</p> <p>(b) The staff entering the building according to (a) would be akin to Director General entering the building.</p> <p>(c) Director General has the authority to give the following powers to the staff entering a building under (a)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stick a sign outside the building stating that the building is a health hazard 2. Take necessary steps or do what needs to be done inside the building to ensure the protection from health hazards 3. Remove from the building anything believed to be a health hazard 4. Confiscate anything found inside a building which could be a health hazard 5. Inform the public of the health hazard in the building through media 6. Close down the building or part of building or control entry and exit to the building 7. Clean and disinfect the building 8. Eliminate any item found inside the building which could be a direct health hazard 9. Stop any work or interactions done inside the building
Reclamation of expenses	30	<p>All expenses for sending the staff from the agency to enter the building to carry out the activities in the order if the recipient does not respond to an order from Director General under parts 26 and 27 of this Act, can be reclaimed from the recipient. These funds will be considered as a debt by the recipient to the government.</p>
Request for court order	31	<p>(a) If a recipient of an order under parts 26 and 27 of this Act goes against the Director General order, Director General can apply to the civil court to issue a court order for the recipient to obey the order instead of sending staff to carry out the order according to part 29 of this Act.</p> <p>(b) For a case submitted to Civil Court under (a) an order can be issued by the civil court, if the Civil Court believes that the actions ordered by the Director General to be carried out in with regard to a health hazard in a specific building are necessary actions to take in that situation and time.</p>
Reporting to WHO	32	<p>The Director General must report to WHO without delay, if any health hazard created or introduced in Maldives can be of international concern, or if any health hazard created or introduced in Maldives must be reported to WHO under international agreements.</p>

State of emergency

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| Declaring state of public health emergency | 33 | <p>(a) If there is sufficient proof for the Director General to believe there is a situation which may be harmful to health in a specific place on a specific day and actions need to be taken to ensure the emergency is resolved, managed and risks minimized, the Director General can advise the Minister to declare a state of public health emergency and specify the area in which the state of emergency will be enforced.</p> <p>(b) If the Director General advises the Minister according to (a), the Minister must declare a state of emergency on a specific place for a specific time.</p> |
| Response to public health emergencies | 34 | <p>If the Minister announces a state of public health emergency for public health, the Director General must take special steps related to the following</p> <p>(a) Conduct vaccination programs for a target group or target social level of people</p> <p>(b) Identify which group of people or social level of people are most in need of vaccines, medicines and other vaccine related items.</p> <p>(c) Issue orders to close education facilities and prohibit people from gathering together</p> <p>(d) Restrict people from going to specific places at specific times and order people not to have gatherings</p> <p>(e) Provide assistance and facilitates to the quarantines people.</p> <p>(f) Stop or control sea and air travel or take special steps while travelling</p> |
| Budget for public health emergencies | 35 | <p>(a) An amount must be included in the government budget every year to be used in a the event of a public health emergency</p> <p>(b) The amount defined under (a) must be estimated by the Minister and the Director General, with reference to what actions need to be taken in the event of an emergency and estimated costs for these actions.</p> <p>(c) Even if stated otherwise in any other Act, the money allocated for public health emergencies according to (a) cannot be used for any other purposes.</p> |
| Assistance by government | 36 | <p>In the event of a public health emergency, a specific social level of people may be given specific financial assistance if the Minister feels that they would need it to take the necessary actions to respond to the emergency or the agency can reimburse the expenses</p> |

Power to declare a building as a quarantine center	37	<p>(a) The Minister can order someone to give up their building to the Minister to make it a quarantine center or isolation center in the event of a public health emergency. If the building is inhabited, the Minister must arrange other temporary living arrangements for the inhabitants of the building according to a regulation made under this Act.</p> <p>(b) The order issued under (a) must clearly state the reasons and duration the building will be used.</p> <p>(c) Any building taken under (a) cannot be kept for more than 12 (twelve) months under any circumstances</p> <p>(d) The Minister can order hand over of a building under (a) under the following situations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If there is a direct threat for spread of a dangerous disease 2. If the building is necessary to quarantine or isolate people in relation to a dangerous sickness
Court Order	38	<p>(a) The Minister can submit the case to the Civil Court for a court order to hand over the building to the Minister, if a recipient of an order under part 37 of this Act refuses to act upon the order.</p> <p>(b) Civil Court must issue a ruling to a case submitted under (a), if the Court believes that there is a direct thread of spread of a dangerous disease and if Court sees that it is absolutely necessary to make a quarantine or isolation center in that building.</p>
Returning the building	39	Any building handed over to the Minister under parts 37 or 38 of this Act must be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and repaired before returning the building to its owner. Appropriate opportunity must be given to the owner to accept the building back and the Minister must pay the owner of the building an amount which is the general rent of similar building nearby for the period it was used.

Chapter 7
Activities that can endanger public health

Prohibition of actions that can be risks to public health	40	It is prohibited for any person to carry out any activities that can endanger public health in their living space or any building, land, area or place under the persons control
Maintaining cleanliness and stopping public health risks by councils	41	<p>Under this Act, it is compulsory for all councils to do the following in their areas of jurisdiction</p> <p>(a) Maintain cleanliness, protective health, and ensure no risk of health hazards</p>

- (b) If a situation that can endanger public health arises, take necessary steps to prevent or correct the situation
- (c) Take appropriate steps in the event of a public health emergency
- (d) The councils must not go against the orders or policies by Minister or Director General even if mentioned in (a), (b) and (c).

Actions that can be considered as risks to public health

42 For the purpose of this Act, the following would be considered as risks to public health

- (a) If an inhabited or uninhabited place, or a general area or a building is unclean and there is a chance of spread of an infectious disease due to this
- (b) If personal care centers, hospitals, centers, toilets are unclean and there is a chance of spread of an infectious disease due to this
- (c) If a road, water body, water drainage system, toilet, dustbin, waste removal area, waste dump, special area for waste dumping is unclean and can pose a health risk or possibility of risk due to the areas being unclean and the smells from the areas.
- (d) If there is a health risk or possibility of health risk from an unclean drinking water source, general water source or a place which produces food for consumption
- (e) If there is a creation of a health risk or possibility of creation of a health risk from water or any other substance released from a building or from an inhabited or uninhabited building.
- (f) If there is a health risk or possibility of health risk to the people working or living in surrounding areas from any gas, smoke, chemical, radiation or vibration emitting from an inhabited or uninhabited building.
- (g) If an animal or bird cage or rearing area is built or maintained in such a way which can pose a health risk or possibility of a health risk
- (h) Importing and keeping in a home, cage or area any creature dangerous to health
- (i) If a substance that can go bad or any other garbage or unclean substance is left to be accumulated
- (j) Any action, thing or situation that can cause risks to a person's body, health or life

Order to stop 43

- (a) If an action or situation arises that may be a risk to public health, the

actions that can be considered as risks to public health

Director General has the authority to order to stop the action for a specified period, or take specific steps to stop the action or situation. This includes the authority for the Director General to control or prohibit the rearing, birthing or producing specific types of animals, birds, insect or thing.

- (b) If an order issued by the Director General to stop an activity which could endanger public health is not obeyed by the recipient in the given period of time, the Director General has the authority to request Civil Court to issue a court order to obey the Director Generals orders.
- (c) After procedures for any cases submitted under (b), if the Civil Court believes that there is a situation which threatens public health or the actions by the person can endanger public health, the Civil Court has the authority to order to correct these actions in a specified period of time and to prohibit such actions in that place.

Developing Standards

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It is a responsibility of the Agency to define hygiene standards for the following places in a regulation under this Act and implement these standards in order to eliminate or control the situations and actions which is stated as risks to public health under this Act

- (a) Dwellings
- (b) Uninhabited areas
- (c) Workplaces
- (d) Personal service providers
- (e) Sports arenas
- (f) Hospitals
- (g) Gathering places
- (h) Centers
- (i) Roads and public areas
- (j) Toilets
- (k) Places where food is sold
- (l) Water bodies used for sports

Considering breeding grounds for mosquitoes, other insects and rats as a threat to public health

45 The following types of places in a dwelling, in a public area next to a dwelling or in an uninhabited area is considered to be a possible site for breeding of mosquitoes or other disease spreading organisms, or production of poisons or if it is a site which can produce agents that can become breeding sites for mosquitoes, other diseases spreading organisms, rats or any agent that can cause diseases in humans and animals, such a site must be considered as a public health risk under this Act and the Agency must take actions against such a site according to part 7 of this Act.

- (a) Accumulated waste
- (b) Dark humid places
- (c) Places where undisposed waste is accumulated
- (d) Water or water bodies
- (e) Empty boxes
- (f) Anything that can retain water
- (g) Empty bottles
- (h) Empty cans
- (i) Empty containers

Avoiding overgrowth of grass and placing of items in such a way that can breed mosquitoes and other insects

46 (a) If there is a public area or an uninhabited area within 50 (fifty) meters of a dwelling, whoever is responsible for such an area must prevent the following things from accumulating in the area.

1. Empty bottles
2. Broken bottles
3. Empty cans
4. Empty boxes
5. Any other possible breeding sites for mosquitoes, other disease spreading insects or rats

(b) If there is an empty land or unused land within 30 (thirty) meters of a dwelling, public area, government building, school, shop or workshop, it is prohibited to leave the area to be overgrown with grass, accumulated with undisposed waste or as a possible breeding site for rats, mosquitoes or other disease spreading insects.

(c) If the Director General notices noncompliance to (a) and (b), the Director General can order the council representing the area to improve the situation. Appropriate time must be given to improve the situation according to a regulation made under this Act.

- (d) If an order is given to councils under (c), the councils must inform the person involved and order the person to improve the situation of the site under their responsibility. Appropriate time must be given to improve the situation according to a regulation made under this Act.
- (e) In the recipient of an order under (d) refuses to act upon the order, the councils can send people under a Court Order to improve the situation. All expenses for such a process can be reclaimed from the recipient of the order in addition the fines described in (f). These funds would be considered as a debt to the government on the recipient.
- (f) If a recipient refuses to carry out any orders under (d), it will be considered as an offense punishable with a fine of maximum MVR 1,000 (one thousand Maldivian Rufiya).
- Protection of tanks 47
- (a) Tanks, barrels, buckets or any other types of containers used to keep, transport or store drinking water must be properly sealed and protected from the following
1. Mosquitoes and other insects
 2. Birds
 3. Rats and mice
 4. Cats
- (b) If the Director General notices noncompliance to (a), the Director General can order the council representing the area to improve the situation. Appropriate time must be given to improve the situation according to a regulation made under this Act.
- (c) If an order is given to councils under (b), the councils must inform the responsible person to improve the situation. Appropriate time must be given to improve the situation according to a regulation made under this Act.
- (d) In the recipient of an order under (c) refuses to act upon the order, the councils can send people under a Court Order to improve the situation. All expenses for such a process can be reclaimed from the recipient of the order in addition the fines described in (e). These funds would be considered as a debt to the government on the recipient.
- (e) If a recipient refuses to carry out any orders under (c), it will be considered as an offense punishable with a fine of maximum MVR 1,000 (one thousand Maldivian Rufiya).
- Avoiding possible sites for breeding of rats 48
- (a) It is prohibited to leave any item in a dwelling unattended which can become a breeding site for rats, can retain water or can breed mosquitoes because of water retention. If such items are present they must be removed or kept in such a way that rats and mosquitoes cannot

breed and water is not retained.

- (b) If the Director General notices noncompliance to (a), the Director General can order the council representing the area to improve the situation. Appropriate time must be given to improve the situation according to a regulation made under this Act.
- (c) If an order is given to councils under (b), the councils must inform the responsible person to improve the situation. Appropriate time must be given to improve the situation according to a regulation made under this Act.
- (d) In the recipient of an order under (c) refuses to act upon the order, the councils can send people under a Court Order to improve the situation. All expenses for such a process can be reclaimed from the recipient of the order in addition the fines described in (e). These funds would be considered as a debt to the government on the recipient.
- (e) If a recipient refuses to carry out any orders under (c), it will be considered as an offense punishable with a fine of maximum MVR 1,000 (one thousand Maldivian Rufiya).

Entering places to control mosquitoes 49

- (a) This Act gives the agency authority to enter dwellings or any other places to check for rats, mosquitoes or other disease causing agents or to check for possible breeding sites for rats and mosquitoes. The agency must publicly notify 24 hours prior to inspection stating the specific area for inspection and time when related staff from agency or any other staff sent by the agency will enter the place.
- (b) It is an offense punishable by a fine of maximum MVR 5,000 (five thousand Maldivian Rufiya), if a person does not allow, obstruct or threaten staff from entering a dwelling under (a).

Care for wet lands 50

- (a) It is a responsibility of island, atoll and city councils to ensure that all lakes, public water bodies and wet lands in their responsible region are protected from mosquito and other insect breeding.
- (b) If appropriate actions are not taken according to (a) it will be considered as an offense and the responsible person from the council will be punishable with a fine of maximum MVR 5,000 (five thousand Maldivian Rufiya).

Chapter 9 Dirty or unhygienic places

Cleaning dirty or unhygienic places 51

- (a) If the Director General notices that a place where a person is living is not appropriate for human to live in or is a threat to public health due to dirtiness or the place being unhygienic, the Director General can order

the council responsible for the area to improve the situation. Appropriate time must be given to improve the situation according to a regulation made under this Act.

- (b) If an order is given to councils under (a), the councils must inform the responsible person to clean, disinfect and remove all health risks from the place the person is responsible for. Appropriate time must be given to improve the situation according to a regulation made under this Act.
- (c) If a place where a person lives is dirty enough to pose the possibility of breeding organisms, the councils and order to clean the place and administer insecticides/pesticides to prevent spread of a disease causing organisms. Appropriate time must be given to for these activities according to a regulation made under this Act.

Request for
Court Order

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- (a) If the owner of a dwelling refuses to carry out the orders, Director General has the authority to submit to Civil Court to issue a court order giving the councils power to carry out the orders under (b) and (c) of part 51 of this Act
- (b) The Civil Court can issue an order for a case submitted under (a) if the Court believes that it is necessary to take the steps to protect public health
- (c) All expenses for cleaning a place under a court order according to (b) can be reclaimed from the owner or the tenants of that place. These funds would be considered as a debt to the government on the recipient
- (d) If a person refuses to obey councils orders under (b) and (c) of part 51 of this Act, it will be considered as an offense punishable with a fine of maximum MVR 3,000 (three thousand Maldivian Rufiya).

Elimination of
dirty or
unhygienic
material

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- (a) If the Director General feels that specific materials or a material in a dwelling is dirty or unhygienic, and if there is a risk to human life or health due to such dirty or unhygienic material, the Director General has the authority to order the councils responsible for the region to eliminate such materials.
- (b) If the Director General issues an order to a council according to (a), it a responsibility of the council to inform the owner of the place and order the owner to clean the place, eliminate stated material or use pesticides/insecticides to disinfect the material. Appropriate time must be given to for these activities according to a regulation made under this Act.
- (c) If the recipient of an order under (b) refuses to carry out the orders, the Director General can request for a court order from Civil Court to carry out the orders.

- (d) For a case submitted to Civil Court under (c), the Court can issue a court order to carry out the Director General's orders under the supervision of councils, if the Court believes that it is necessary to eliminate a specific material in a specific place, to clean a specific place or disinfect a specific place according to the Director General's orders is necessary to protect public health and lives of people.
- (e) All expenses to clean a place to protect the lives and health of public under a court order according to (d) can be reclaimed from the owners or tenants of that place. These funds will be considered as a debt to the government.
- (f) Any person who do not obey the councils orders under (c) is committing an offense punishable by a maximum fine of MVR 3,000 (three thousand Maldivian rufiyaa)

Chapter 10

Elimination of unhygienic material and waste disposal

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| Waste disposal from homes | 54 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A waste disposal and elimination system must be established in all places where people live. It is prohibited for people to live in a place which does not have such systems. (b) Dwellings must be categorized and standards for waste disposal and elimination methods must be stated for each category in a regulation made under this Act. |
| Elimination of waste from hotels and public areas | 55 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Standards, policies and methods for waste disposal and elimination in hotels, restaurants, public areas and entertainment areas, must be stated in a regulation under this Act. (b) It is prohibited to operate, open for public or used for entertainment, a hotel or restaurant which does not comply with the standards developed under this Act. (c) Standards for waste disposal in hotels, restaurants, entertainment areas or public areas must be stated in a regulation under this Act. |
| Waste Disposal | 56 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) It is prohibited to throw rubbish to any public areas, streets, empty buildings, sea or beach. (b) Waste disposal or elimination systems must be established in all places and stated in a regulation under this Act. These systems will be enforced by councils in the region. (c) Non compliance to (a) and throwing rubbish to any public areas, streets, empty buildings, sea or beach and dirty such places would be considered |

as an offense under this Act punishable by a maximum fine of MVR 5,000 (five thousand Maldivian Rufiya)

Chapter 11 Food Safety

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| Places which sell food | 57 | (a) Hygiene standards required under this Act for places which sell food must be stated in a regulation under this Act |
| | | (b) To ensure efficient implementation of this Act, the regulation developed under (a) must include different standards for places which sell different types of food and places which sell food must be categorized and different conditions places on different categories. |
| | | (c) Policies for giving permits for places which sell food, fees for permits and types and amounts of fines for non compliance with conditions of permit must be clearly stated in a regulation made under this Act |
| Operation without permit | 58 | (a) It is prohibited to operate a place which sells food without a permit issued according to the regulation under this Act. |
| | | (b) The Director General can take a fee for issuing permits to a place which sells food according to the regulation under this Act. |
| Cleanliness of places which sell food | 59 | (a) All places which sell food must be clean and in compliance with the standards stated in the regulation under this Act. |
| | | (b) There must be no circumstances be it man made or due to a chemical, in a place which sells food which can contaminate or soil the food prepared in the place |
| | | (c) It is prohibited to sell spoiled, expired, poisonous food or food mixed with other substances. |
| | | (d) A person with an infectious disease or a person exposed to an infectious disease must participate or be participated in any stage of food production and selling. |
| | | (e) Non compliance with (a) through (d) of this part will be an offense punishable by a maximum fine of MVR 10,000 (ten thousand Maldivian Rufiya) |
| Power for inspection without a court order | 60 | (a) The Director General or any person appointed by the Director General has the power to enter and inspect for compliance of this Act during an appropriate time in the daytime for places open during daytime and during an appropriate time at night for places open at night. A court order is not required to enter places during these situations. |

(b) Director General can request for Police assistance to carry out the responsibilities related to places which sell food and Police must provide assistance upon such a request.

Delegation of responsibilities 61 The Minister has the authority to delegate the powers given to the Agency or to the Director General under this Act, to another government organization.

Chapter 12 Water Safety

Safety of public water sources 62 If there is a system in place to provide water for public through a series of taps, a single tap, a well, a barrel or a tank, the councils responsible for the region must ensure that water from these sources is suitable for human use and does not contain any disease causing organisms or agents.

Systems for providing clean water 63 If there is no public system established for providing clean water in an area under the responsibility of a council, the council must work to establish such a system in that area.

Orders to clean unclean water 64

(a) If the Director reasonably believes that the water provided under part 62 of this Act is not suitable for human use or not clean, the Director General can order the councils responsible for the water source to clean the water to make it suitable for human use. Appropriate time should be given to the councils to execute such an order.

(b) Under this Act, it is compulsory on the councils to carry out orders issued according to (a) during the specified period.

(c) If the councils fail to improve the situation in the period given under (a), the person responsible for this in the council is committing an offense punishable for a maximum fine of MVR 10,000 (ten thousand Maldivian rufiyaa).

Taking Samples 65

(a) Director General has the authority to order to take samples and conduct experimentation to ensure whether the water provided for public use in a certain area is safe for human use, devoid from any disease causing organisms. A person appointed by the Director General can go and takes samples from taps, barrels, tanks or wells during appropriate times of the day without prior notice.

(b) The person responsible for the water source or person in charge of providing the water must assist the person sent by the Director General according to (a) to take the water samples. It is prohibited for any person to obstruct the work of the person appointed by the Director General.

Order to stop providing water 66 If test results of any water samples show that the water provided for public use is not suitable for human use or contains disease causing organisms, the Director General can give a specific period to improve the situation and until the situation

is improved the Director General has the authority to prohibit release of water from that source or close the place.

Developing some policies and regulations 67 A regulation made under this Act must clearly state the general health standards for waste water drainage systems, water used by personal service providers, water used places where people do not live and in public areas. The regulation must also include policies on how to ensure compliance to these standards, steps to be taken against offenders and policies on how these steps can be taken.

Chapter 13

Safety of water bodies used for sports

Getting a license 68 (a) Any water body for sports must be constructed, built or operated for public use only after getting a license from the Agency proving compliance with general health standards.

(b) Policies of how license according to (a) will be releases must be clearly stated in a regulation under this Act.

(c) Any noncompliance with (a) would be considered as an offense punishable by a maximum fine of MVR 25,000 (twenty fiev thousand Maldivian rufiyaa).

Order to close a water body 69 (a) Director General can issue a written order to close a water body for a specified period of time if the water body is operated without a license according to part 68 of this Act, if there is noncompliance to any parts of the regulation under part 68 of this Act or if there is the danger of spread of an infectious disease to the people using the water body during a situation where such a disease is spreading.

(b) Under this Act it is compulsory for the owner of the water body used for sports for the specified period of time if an order is issued according to (a).

(c) Noncompliance to (b) would be considered as an offense punishable with a maximum fine of MVR 50,000 (fifty thousand Maldivian rufiyaa).

Chapter 14

Vehicles

Checking vehicles 70 (a) If the Director General reasonably believes that there is substance dangerous to public health on a vehicle or actions dangerous to public health are being conducted in any sea or land vehicle operated in the area of Maldives, under Director General's authority a public health officer or port health officer can board or enter such a vehicle.

(b) Necessary force can be used if there is any obstruction to boarding or entering a vehicle according to (a).

- (c) The time period for boarding or entering a vehicle according to (a) must be between 6am and 6pm.
- (d) Any person who does not permit to carry out the work of a public health officer or port health officer under (a) is committing an offense punishable with a maximum fine of MVR 2,000 (two thousand Maldivian rufiya).
- Detection of a possible health risk 71
- (a) Public health officer or port health officer must order to end any health risks they detect upon boarding or entering a vessel. Appropriate time must be given to the owner of the vessel to improve the situation.
- (b) If the owner of the vehicle does not comply with an order issued under (a) it is considered as an offense punishable by a maximum fine of MVR 4,000 (four thousand Maldivian rufiyaa)
- Request for court order 72
- (a) If a person does not permit or obstructs the boarding or entry to a vehicle according to chapter 7 of this Act, Director General can submit to the Civil Court for a court order to enter or board the vehicle.
- (b) On submission of such a case to the Civil Court, if the court reasonably believes that actions dangerous to public health are being conducted in a vehicle, or such a material is present in the vehicle, the Civil Court can issue a court order to eliminate or end the threat via the owner of the vehicle or via a person who is responsible for the port where the vehicle is parked.
- Enforcement of policies on buildings 73
- (a) All policies under this Act related to dwellings will apply to vehicle to the relevant extent. All powers Director General has in relation to dwellings, the Director General will have in relation to vehicles as well.
- (b) Under this Act, the Captain or Master of a vehicle has the same responsibilities as the owner of a dwelling.

Chapter 15

Authority to enter different places

- Authority to enter places 74
- (a) If the Director General reasonably believes that there is possibility of a health risk or risk of spread of an infectious disease, or to ensure compliance with this Act or to enforce the Act, the Director General has the authority to enter uninhabited places at appropriate times of day or night and do the following
1. Do necessary searches, investigations, experimentations, tests and collect necessary information.
 2. Detain a sea, land or air transport vehicle and enter to board the vehicle.
 3. Order to present any plants, animals or living things for

experimentations or testing. Take samples from the things presented.

4. Order to provide relevant information required by the Director General or information on ownership of an item.
5. Order to present documents if any which contain personal, health or ownership information. Make photo copies of presented documents or order to provide copies of the documents.
6. Take necessary pictures and videos to describe the situation of the place.
7. Bring devices, equipments and machinery necessary for work
8. Use devices, equipments and machinery available in the place for work
9. Do any necessary digging or opening of places.

(b) If the owner of a place does not comply with the orders under (a), obstructs work, hinders entry into the place or close the place to make entry impossible, Director General has the authority to request for a court order to the Civil Court to perform the Director General's responsibilities.

(c) If it is a place where people live, Director General has the authority to enter the place with owner's permission and do the things mentioned in (a).

Requesting for court orders to enter dwellings

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(a) If the owner of a dwelling does not permit or does not give permission to enter the place, Director General can request the Civil Court for a court order to fulfill the responsibilities under this Act.

(b) When a case is submitted to Civil Court according to (a) if the court reasonably believes the following, the court can issue a ruling giving r Director General or any person appointed by the Director General the power to do the following.

1. If there is sufficient reason to believe that it will be useful to enter a dwelling
2. It is necessary to enter the place and do requires tests, experimentations and searches
3. It is believed that it is necessary to take samples of things found in the dwelling.

(c) Court order issued under this part must state the period of time for which the court order will be enforced.

(d) Any court order issued under (b) should not be more than 15 (fifteen) days under any circumstances.

Entering places without a court order in an

76

(a) In a situation where the Minister has declared a state of emergency under part 33 of this Act, the Director General has the authority to enter a dwelling, uninhabited place or public place without a court order.

emergency

- (b) After entering a dwelling, uninhabited place or public place according to (a), Director General has the authority under this Act to do whatever is necessary to minimize, control or eliminate public health risk.
- (c) The authority to the Director General to enter a dwelling, uninhabited place or public place according to (a), includes any number of people necessary to assist the Director General, any staff working under the Director General or relevant government officials.

Chapter 16 Financial issues

Establish public health fund 77

- (a) A public health fund is established under this part of this Act.
- (b) The reasons for establishing the fund in (a) and depositing money in the fund is because it is more important to prevent diseases, maintain public health, take safety precautions against diseases, increase public health awareness, conduct more public health related activities and give preference to male Maldivians aware of public health issues than spending the funds on the treatment or control of a disease.

Nature of money deposited in the fund

The following nature of money can be deposited in the fund

- (a) Money allocated by the People's Majilis in the government's yearly budget for protection of public health under this Act
- (b) Donations from different parties given to the Maldivian Government to enforce this Act or parts of this Act
- (c) Any donations by a Maldivian citizen or citizens, a foreign citizen or citizens, by a national or international society or organization to conduct public health programs
- (d) Money received from implementing the following activities under this Act
 1. Money received as fee for license issued under this Act
 2. Money taken for any services provided under this Act
 3. Money received from selling reports written and researches conducted under this Act
 4. Money received from trainings and activities conducted under this Act
 5. Money received from fines under this Act
 6. A percentage of duty taken from cigarettes and tobacco.
- (e) The money deposited in the fund under this part would be separate and in addition to the money given by the government for operation of the

agency.

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| Responsibility of the fund | 79 | Minister is responsible for the operation of the fund and money in the fund. |
| Use of money | 80 | <p>(a) The money in the fund will be used for direct activities under this Act to protect public health</p> <p>(b) If money from fund is released for a specific activity, special attention must be given to use the funds for that activity only.</p> |
| Inclusion of money in budget | 81 | <p>(a) When making the yearly budget, the People's Majilis must include an appropriate amount of money to be deposited in the fund to conduct public health protection activities.</p> <p>(b) When making the yearly budget, the People's Majilis must include an appropriate amount of money to operate the agency and enforcement of this Act. Appropriate amount of money for the agency to efficiently conduct the activities state in this Act must be included.</p> <p>(c) When allocating money under (a) People's Majilis must try its best to allocate the amount of money requested by the Agency. Money allocated to the agency under (b) is not money for the fund.</p> |

Chapter 17 General policies

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| Collecting and revealing information | 82 | <p>(a) All institutes in Maldives must provide any information required by the Director General to perform the responsibilities under this Act. Under this Act it is compulsory for an institute to provide any information requested by the Director General.</p> <p>(b) For the protection of public health, if the Director General reasonably believes that it is important to reveal the name of a specific person with a specific disease, the Director General has the authority to publicly reveal the name of a person. However, this must be done only in a situation where the danger to public health has escalated to an extent which cannot be contained without revealing the name.</p> <p>(c) In a situation where names must be revealed under (b), Director General must follow regulations under this Act.</p> |
| Hospital record keeping | 83 | <p>(a) To perform Director General's responsibilities, Director General has the authority to request for and check the records of a patient in a hospital or any records kept in the hospital whenever required.</p> <p>(b) If a request is sent according to (a) every hospital must provide all information related to the request to the Director General.</p> |

Notifiable Diseases	85	<p>(a) If a doctor, nurse or laboratory technologist detects a notifiable disease in a person or detects that a person may have had a notifiable disease at some period of time, the information must be reported to the Director General without delay.</p> <p>(b) If a school principal believes that a student or a staff in the school has a notifiable disease, has the possibility of having a notifiable disease or has had a notifiable disease at some period of time, the information must be reported to the Director General without delay.</p> <p>(c) If any person responsible for the operation of any centers believes that a person or a staff in the center has a notifiable disease, has the possibility of having a notifiable disease or has had a notifiable disease at some period of time, the Director General must be informed without delay.</p> <p>(d) If there is reason to believe that a person palced under different categories under this Act, has a notifiable disease, has the possibility of having a notifiable disease or has had a notifiable disease at some period of time, the Director General must be informed without delay.</p> <p>(e) If a doctor signing the death certificate notices that the cause of death is a notifiable disease, the Director General must be informed without delay.</p>
Information on dangerous diseases	86	<p>If a doctor, nurse or person in charge of a health facility notices a specific disease to be a dangerous disease and if the disease is spreading faster than normal, the Director General must be informed without delay.</p>
False information	87	<p>(a) It is prohibited to provide false information as answer to any questions asked under this Act by the Director General or any person appointed by the Director General and it is prohibited to provide false information while knowing the truth.</p> <p>(b) Non compliance with (a) is an offense punishable with a maximum fine of MVR 3,000 (three thousand Maldivian Rufiya)</p>
Compulsory Assistance	88	<p>(a) In carrying out the responsibilities of Director General, owners of building must provide any assistance requested for activities to eliminate or minimize public health risks or protect the public from health risks.</p> <p>(b) Director General can request Police assistance and Police must provide any assistance requested.</p> <p>(c) No person must do any actions to obstruct or hinder any activities within the responsibilities of the Director General and conducted within the powers of this Act and</p>

(d) Restricting entry into a place without a court order will not be considered as hindering the activities conducted under this Act.

Individual and social responsibility	89	If the recipient of an order by the Director General under this Act is a group of people it is a responsibility of each individual in that group and the group as a whole to obey the order. If the Director General has to do the activities because of no response from the recipients, each individual separately and the group as a whole would be held responsible for paying back the expenses.
Reclamation of expenses would be in addition to the punishment	90	Any penalty given for non compliance with this Act, does not hinder the collection of money under this Act. Efforts of Director General to obtain money for any activities conducted by the Director General does not interfere with the process of taking actions against or giving penalty under this Act.
General offenses	91	Apart from all offenses stated in this Act, any activities against this Act or anything described in this Act will also be considered as offenses punishable by a maximum fine of MVR 1,000 (one thousand Maldivian Rufiya)
Limitation on going to court	92	There can be no court proceeding against the Director General or any person appointed by the Director General for carrying out an activity stated under this Act in order to enforce this Act or any regulations under this Act in good intentions. The Director General does not have to bear any legal responsibilities.
Research to determine how diseases emerge	93	To determine the origin, source and reasons for a communicable disease, dangerous disease, health hazard agency can conduct necessary investigations, experimentations, testing and researches to determine how the disease emerged
Developing regulations	94	<p>In addition to the power to develop regulations under specific parts of this Act, the Minister has the authority to make regulations for the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Responsibilities of Director General(b) How to detect health threats, how to protect against them, how to minimize risk from health threats and how to completely eliminate threat(c) Categories or levels of people that should inform the Director General of health emergencies.(d) Health safety standards for different places(e) Hygiene standards for construction, different service centers, personal service centers and centers which should give special attention to hygiene(f) Isolate, care for or eliminate an animal having a disease dangerous for humans(g) Vaccinate an animal having a disease dangerous for humans

- (h) Ways to inform if an animal has a disease dangerous for humans
- (i) Identifying and reporting dangerous, infectious and notifiable diseases.
- (j) Categorizing dangerous, infectious and notifiable diseases and how such diseases are spread.
- (k) Specifying a certain disease as a dangerous, infectious, notifiable or lifestyle disease
- (l) Relocating specific people from a specific area due to a dangerous disease or if a dangerous disease is being spread in a specific area
- (m) Isolation and quarantine
- (n) Isolation and quarantine centers
- (o) Conducting vaccination programmes
- (p) Operating personal service providers
- (q) Standards for health services provided at personal service centers
- (r) Health standards of hotels, canteens, restaurants
- (s) Health standards for water bodies used for swimming, swimming pools and water bodies used for sports
- (t) Operation of places which sell food and health standards for such places.
- (u) Health standards for operation of centers
- (v) Health standards for schools and public places
- (w) Standards to be used and responsibilities of public health laboratories
- (x) Orders that can be issued in a health emergency and things that should be included in such orders
- (y) Reclamation of expenses for carrying out an activity by the Director General due to noncompliance to an order by the Director General
- (z) Standards for areas of sea where people swim in
- (aa) Different health standards for gathering places
- (bb) Actions to take in the event of a public health emergency

Annulment of some parts of the constitution	95	Upon enforcement of this Act, part 101 to 104 of Act number 10/68 (Maldives constitution chapter 4) will be annulled.
Developing and enforcing regulations	96	All regulation under this Act will be developed by the Agency under Ministers guidance. All regulation under this Act must be developed within maximum 12 (twelve) days of ractification of this Act.
Effective date	97	This Act will come to effect on the date this Act is passed, ratified and published in the government gazette.