

Infectious Diseases Legislation

Primary Legislation - Health Act, 1947 and Health Act, 1953

Summary of changes pertaining specifically to Public Health work

Minister may specify IDs and provide for preventing spread of IDs by Regulation; People have a duty to take precautions against infecting others; Chief medical officer (of county or city) may order necessary detention and isolation of person with ID; Presumption in civil action as to cause of infection; Authorised officers and limitations on exercise of powers (geographical); compensation for damage to person or property (includes negligence by health authority).

Principal Regulations

Infectious Diseases Regulations, 1981

*Declares Schedule of Infectious Diseases
Requires notification to the MOH*

Responsibility

*Regulation 11. A medical officer of health, or a health officer on the advice of a medical officer of health, shall **make such enquiries and take such steps** as are necessary or desirable **for investigating the nature and source of such infection**, for **preventing the spread** of such infection and for **removing conditions favourable to such infection**.*

Authority

Regulation 19. A person who refuses to comply with a requirement or direction given or a request for information made in pursuance of any of the provisions of these Regulations shall be guilty of a contravention of these Regulations.

Notification Changes

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2000

MOH weekly returns to NDSC + detailed report on cases as required

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2003 (SI no 707)

Clinical directors of diagnostic laboratories to report IDs; Unusual clusters or changing pattern of illness that may be of public health concern to be reported; NDSC responsible for maintenance, updating and circulation of case definitions and standard form for returning infectious disease. Update address of NDSC

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2004

Replaces NDSC with HPSC of HSE

ID (Shipping) Regs, 2008

MOH responsibilities & powers in relation to shipping

Amendments include provision for smallpox vaccination for airport & seaport workers; co-signature for Section 38 etc

Schedule Changes

ID (Amendment) Regs, 1985

2xVD → 12STD

ID (Amendment) Regs, 1988

+Mumps

ID (Amendment) Regs, 1996

+CJD & nvCJD

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2003 (SI no 115)

+SARS

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2003 (SI no 180)

SARS to 'Section 38'

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2003 (SI no 707)

Replaced Schedule; List of IDs for immediate preliminary notification updated

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2007

New/re-emergent influenza for 'Section 38' & immediate preliminary notification; nvCJD amended to variant CJD and changes to notification of CJD & variant CJD

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2011

-1 + HIV & 11 others

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2015

+ Hepatitis E

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2016

+ Zika Virus Disease

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2018

+ all CJD/vCJD, CPE, neonatal Herpes simplex, mcr-positive Enterobacteriaceae, Novel or Rare Antimicrobial-resistant Organisms

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2020

+Covid-19

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2022 & 2024

+Mpox (added 2022; nomenclature change 2024)

MOH Changes

Health Act, 2004

Continuation of authority to perform functions of medical officers

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2004

Updates the definition of MOH

ID (Amendment) Regs, 2007

Construe MOH as per Health Act, 2004; health boards and functional areas of health boards amended to HSE and functional areas of HSE

ID (Aircraft) Regs, 2009

MOH responsibilities and powers in relation to aircraft