Decree-Law No. 17 Of 1990
On Protection from Infectious Diseases

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Decree-Law No. 17 Of 1990
On Protection from Infectious Diseases

- **Section 1- Definitions**
- **Article (1)**
  2- **The Ministry**: Ministry of Public Health.
  3- **The competent health authority**: The department of preventive health.
  4- **Infectious disease**: each disease transmissible to others by human, animals, insects, food, places or other objects and substances contaminated by infectious disease bacteria.
  5- **Infected**: A person who causes the infection of an infectious disease and has an apparent disease.
  6- **The suspect**: A person who we deduce from its medical file or symptoms that appear on it that its body may contain infectious disease bacteria.
  7- **Contact**: who contacts with an infected or a suspect inflected of having one of the infectious diseases.
  8- **The isolation**: isolate the patient or the suspected of having an infectious disease in special places and circumstances to prevent the spread of disease causes directly or indirectly to other persons. No one can enter to the isolated person, except those who treat and serve him with permission from the physician in charge.
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• Section 2-Health measures to prevent infections diseases
• Article (3)

If a person was infected or suspected of having an infectious disease, it is imposed to notify immediately and by the fastest possible way the nearest medical center or hospital in accordance with the provisions of this law, the implementation decisions and executive lists. Also, the medical center or the hospital shall inform the competent health authority.
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- Article (4)

The imposed notification mentioned in the previous article is the duty of every doctor who examined the infected or the suspected of infectious disease, also it is the duty of the paterfamilias or accommodation provider, director of the university, college or school or his representative; the immediate supervisor in the work if the infection suspected has occurred on duty and the foreign sponsor, whether the infected or the suspected is in the country or abroad, when known by anyone of them.
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• Article (5)

The competent health authority, when receives a notification about the infection, the suspect of having an infectious disease, or detects the presence of disease or suspect on that, must immediately take the necessary measures to prevent its spread.
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• Article (6)

The competent health authority may isolate the infected or the suspected of having an infectious disease in the hospital or the determined place and for an expected period or impose him and his contacts to the health surveillance.

It may due to the nature of work of the subjected to the health surveillance or because their unwillingness to implement its special measures, decide to change the isolation by surveillance.
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• Article (7)

The competent health authority may, at any time, isolate the infected, suspected of having an infectious disease, their contacts and who carry the disease germ, from practicing their jobs until proving they are free from the infectious causes. This isolation is mandatory for the employees who manufacture, prepare or transport the food substances and beverages. It is prohibited for the isolated from their jobs to return to work except who have permission from the competent health authority.

The immediate supervisor, employer or his responsible manager shall implement the isolation decision upon acknowledgement.
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• Article (8)
  It is prohibited to transport the infected by an infectious disease or their objects which may cause the spread of infection from one place to another without authorization from the competent health authority determining the means of transport.

• Article (9)
  The competent health authority shall take the necessary samples from the infected or suspected of having an infectious disease and their contacts and who carry the disease germs to analyze them and to verify if they are free from infectious causes.
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• Article (10)

In the emergence of infectious disease, the Minister, by decision, may consider a party infected with this disease; in this case, the competent health authority shall take all necessary precautions to prevent the infection spread by isolating, decontamination, vaccination surveillance and others.

Also, it may prevent any kind of public meetings, destroys polluted food and beverages, removes the dispensers of drinking water, public water fountain and taps; close the wells, markets, schools, public cafes or any institution or place runned and deemed as danger to the public health.
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• Article (11)
  It is mandatory to take into consideration the preventive measures determined by the competent health authority to move, bury or transfer the corpses due to their infection by one of the infectious diseases.

• Article (12)
  The Minister may decide to limit the treatment of certain infectious diseases in the governmental medical institutions only, and not in the private health institutions.
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• Article (13)

Taking into consideration the content of the Article (4) of the mentioned law no. (1) of 1985, the animal health section at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture, if after doing the necessary tests discovers an infected animal or suspected of having an infectious disease which can be transmitted to human, shall notify the competent health authority and these two authorities with coordination between them, shall take the necessary measures to prevent the disease spread.
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• Article (14)
  The Minister issue, by a proposal from the competent health authority, the necessary decisions to regulate the followings:

  1. Isolate, supervise or observe the coming people from abroad.

  2. Determine the health requirements that must be met for the entry of goods, articles and imported materials into the country.

  3. Determine the necessary preventive measures to prevent the transmission of infection from human, animal, insect or by any other means.
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• Section 3 – Vaccination against the infectious diseases
• Article (15)

Children should be vaccinated regularly against the infectious diseases determined by decision of the Minister; the vaccination shall be according to the measures and due time determined by the competent health authority.

Children may be vaccinated by a physician licensed to practice this profession, provided that a certificate to be submitted to the competent authority proving the completion of the vaccination before the deadline.

The father of the child or the person whom the child is in custody or care has the duty to present the child for the vaccination.
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• Article (17)
  The competent health authority may organize campaigns to vaccinate the population of all or some parts of the state against the infectious diseases.

• Article (19)
  Any person may come to the competent health authority to take a vaccine against any disease of the infectious diseases and shall obtain a certificate which proves that.
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• Section 4 – General provisions
• Article (20)

The Manager and staff of the competent health authority, each within its competence, shall be judicial officers to prove the committed violations of the provisions of this law and its executive decisions. And, they have, at any time, the right to enter the houses and places suspected of having the disease, to take the necessary measures to prevent its spread, including the isolation of patients and their contacts, doing the necessary vaccination, decontamination the lodgings, furnishings, clothing, baggage, means of transportation …etc. They can seek the police agents’ assistance s, if necessary.
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• Article (21)

Without prejudice to any more severe penalty provided by another law, a penalty of imprisonment for a period not exceeding two months and a fine not more than three thousand Riyal, or one of said penalties, shall apply to whoever infringes the provisions of articles (3), (4), (7/2, 3), (8) and (11). And, a penalty of imprisonment for a period not exceeding one month and a fine not more than two thousand Riyal or one of said penalties, shall apply to whoever infringes the provision of articles (15/3), (16) and (17).
thank you