

Reviewing The Legal Formation Responding to COVID-19 Pandemic And Analyzing The Revision of Communicable Disease Control Act

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Abstract

During the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Special Regulations on Prevention, Relief and Revitalization for Severe Pneumonia with Novel Pathogens (hereinafter referred to as “Special Act”) was enacted for a certain duration in addition to the Communicable Disease Control Act. The article aims to study the added provisions on epidemic prevention according to three tiers: incentives and assistance for preventive and control measures, reinforcing existing regulations, and increasing liability and use of personal information for specific offenders. Furthermore, we analyzed the differences between the Special Act and the Communicable Disease Control Act and provided suggestions for the revision of the Communicable Disease Control Act in the future.

Keywords: Special regulations on prevention, relief and revitalization for severe pneumonia with novel pathogens, Article 7 of Special Act, revision of Communicable Disease Control Act

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Strategy And Development of Border Quarantine During COVID-19 Pandemic, Taiwan, July 2020 to June 2022

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Abstract

In response to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Taiwan has adopted five major strategies to implement border quarantine and prevention measures, including overseas epidemic prevention, border quarantine, entry quarantine connecting with communities, inter-ministerial COVID-19 prevention programs, and autonomous epidemic prevention of key infrastructure in airports and seaports. Confronting the rapidly changing COVID-19 pandemic, the government has adopted passenger entry restrictions to decrease movement of people and transmission of disease, implemented measures to effectively prevent the introduction of SARS-CoV-2 variants into the community, such as pre-flight PCR test, saliva PCR test upon arrival, and follow-up of home quarantine management. According to the characteristics of the industries (aircraft, merchant ships, offshore wind power vessels, etc.) and practical operational needs, the competent authorities assessed COVID-19 risks and the prevailing policies, formulated epidemic prevention programs, and amended the competent laws and regulations to complete the penalty mechanisms. In addition, regular screening of front-line personnel in ports was conducted, the COVID-19 vaccination rate was increased, and training was provided on proper donning and doffing of protective equipment and implementation of operational control measures.

"Strict risk control at border" is one of focused strategies in Taiwan. Overall, passengers were highly cooperative, acquiring PCR test reports and pre-arranged quarantine sites before taking flight to Taiwan, and the violation rate was less than 1.5/1,000; the target group for screening upon arrival has been expanded from "symptomatic" passengers to all passengers, and the positive cases (rate) of PCR test has increased from 870 (0.19%) in 26th-53rd weeks of 2021 to 9,078 (2.50%) in 1st -25th weeks of 2022, with a high rate of 5.98% in a single week, which immediately

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reflected the changes in the global epidemic. As of the end of June 2022, more than 1.2 million home quarantine notices had been issued, and the quarantine information was linked to the community tracking. The Ministry's programs have been adjusted several times on a rolling basis. In addition, the air and seaport stations established proactive surveillance mechanism, continued infection control training and field verification operations, and vaccine booster coverage rate reached over 95%. The COVID-19 experience will provide the government with a reference for immediate planning and activation of border quarantine strategies in the face of future pandemics of emerging infectious disease.

Keywords: COVID-19, border quarantine, strict risk control at border, inbound screening, port response

week 37–38 (Sep.11–Sep.24, 2022)

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Weekly Data of Notifiable Inases (by week of diagnosis)

Case diagnosis year		Week 37★		Week 1–37			
Classification	Disease Diagnosed	2022	2021	2022		2021	
				Total cases★	Imported cases	Total cases★	Imported cases
Category I	Plague	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rabies	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SARS	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0
Category II	Acute Flaccid Paralysis	1	0	18	0	23	0
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type A	0	1	113	1	50	0
	Amoebiasis	6	5	141	33	146	54
	Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chikungunya Fever	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dengue Fever	15	1	52	34	8	8
	Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Enterohemorrhagic E. coli Infection	0	0	2	0	0	0
	Epidemic Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hantavirus syndrome	0	0	3	0	0	0
	Malaria	0	0	2	2	1	1
	Measles	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0	1	0	2	0
	Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0	0	2	0
	Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rubella	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Shigellosis	0	3	55	2	95	0
	Typhoid fever	0	0	2	1	1	0
	West Nile Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zika virus infection	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Monkeypox	0	-	3	3	-	-	
Category III	Acute Viral Hepatitis type B	2	0	69	0	97	2
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type C	7	3	318	1	393	0
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type D	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type E	0	0	9	0	5	0
	Congenital Syphilis	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Congenital Rubella Syndrome	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Enteroviruses Infection with Severe Complications	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Haemophilus Influenza type b Infection	0	0	2	0	1	0
	Japanese Encephalitis	0	0	19	0	26	0
	Legionnaires' Disease	9	11	232	1	255	0
	Mumps	4	8	152	0	319	1
	Neonatal Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pertussis	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tetanus	1	0	4	0	3	0	
Category IV	Botulism	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Brucellosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Complicated Varicella	2	0	21	0	37	0
	Endemic Typhus Fever	0	0	10	0	26	0
	Herpesvirus B Infection	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Influenza Case with Severe Complications	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Invasive Pneumococcal Disease	7	2	130	0	166	0
	Leptospirosis	2	1	38	0	46	0
	Listeriosis	5	2	109	0	124	0
	Lyme Disease	0	0	1	1	0	0
	Melioidosis	2	1	15	1	16	0
	Q Fever	0	0	3	0	8	0
	Scrub Typhus	6	6	176	0	188	0
Toxoplasmosis	1	0	19	0	10	0	
Tularemia	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Category V	Ebola Virus Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Lassa Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Marburg Hemorrhagic Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Coronavirus Infections	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Novel Influenza A Virus Infections	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Rift Valley Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Severe Pneumonia with Novel Pathogens	288405	53	5953282	29769	15333	813
Yellow Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	

1. ★The weekly and cumulative total numbers include indigenous and imported cases of notifiable infectious diseases.
 2. MDR-TB, Tuberculosis, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, HIV Infection, AIDS, Hansen's Disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease are excluded from the table.
 3. Numbers of mumps and tetanus cases are summed up by the week of report.
 4. Since 2022/6/23, " Monkeypox " was listed as a Notifiable Infectious Disease.
 5. Hantavirus syndrome was no longer classify Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome(HFRS) and Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome(HPS) since 2022.

Suspected Clusters

- Six clusters related to diarrhea (3), tuberculosis (3) were reported during week 37.

Imported Infectious Diseases

- There were 1528 imported cases from 38 countries during week 37.
Severe Pneumonia with Novel Pathogens: 1525 cases from Vietnam(197), USA(49), Thailand(30), Indonesia(30), the Philippines(26), Japan(20), Singapore(19), Turkey(16), Malaysia(15), Canada (15), UK(12), Germany(12), and the remaining 26 countries have less than 10 cases, 993 unknowns.

Dengue Fever: 3 cases from Vietnam (3).

- During week 1–37, there were 29849 imported cases from 128 countries. The top three countries are Vietnam (3731), USA (2255), Indonesia (1251).
- During week 1–37, the notifiable diseases with the highest number of imported cases is Severe Pneumonia with Novel Pathogens (29769).

Summary of Epidemic

- **Severe Pneumonia with Novel Pathogens :** The number of COVID-19 cases raise in Taiwan, the risk for local transmission increase.
- **Japanese Encephalitis:** Taiwan is in the midst of Japanese Encephalitis season, individuals living in all counties in Taiwan are at risk of infection.
- **Dengue Fever:** There have been new cases in the previous cluster Kaohsiung City. The number of breeding sites increase because of rainfall in recent days. The risk of Dengue Fever infection raises.

Weekly Data of Notifiable Inases (by week of diagnosis)

Case diagnosis year		Week 38★		Week 1–38			
Classification	Disease Diagnosed	2022	2021	2022		2021	
				Total cases★	Imported cases	Total cases★	Imported cases
Category I	Plague	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rabies	0	0	0	0	0	0
	SARS	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0
Category II	Acute Flaccid Paralysis	1	0	19	0	23	0
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type A	1	2	114	1	52	0
	Amoebiasis	5	1	146	34	147	55
	Anthrax	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chikungunya Fever	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dengue Fever	4	1	56	37	9	9
	Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Enterohemorrhagic E. coli Infection	0	0	2	0	0	0
	Epidemic Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hantavirus syndrome	0	0	3	0	0	0
	Malaria	0	0	2	2	1	1
	Measles	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Meningococcal Meningitis	0	1	1	0	3	0
	Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0	0	2	0
	Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rubella	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Shigellosis	0	1	55	2	96	0
	Typhoid fever	1	0	3	1	1	0
	West Nile Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zika virus infection	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Monkeypox	0	-	3	3	-	-	
Category III	Acute Viral Hepatitis type B	3	0	72	0	97	2
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type C	12	7	330	1	400	0
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type D	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Acute Viral Hepatitis type E	0	0	9	0	5	0
	Congenital Syphilis	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Congenital Rubella Syndrome	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Enteroviruses Infection with Severe Complications	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Haemophilus Influenza type b Infection	0	0	2	0	1	0
	Japanese Encephalitis	0	0	19	0	26	0
	Legionnaires' Disease	4	3	236	1	258	0
	Mumps	5	5	157	0	324	1
	Neonatal Tetanus	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pertussis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tetanus	0	0	4	0	3	0	
Category IV	Botulism	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Brucellosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Complicated Varicella	2	0	23	0	37	0
	Endemic Typhus Fever	0	0	10	0	26	0
	Herpesvirus B Infection	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Influenza Case with Severe Complications	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Invasive Pneumococcal Disease	1	2	131	0	168	0
	Leptospirosis	4	1	42	0	47	0
	Listeriosis	1	6	110	0	130	0
	Lyme Disease	0	0	1	1	0	0
	Melioidosis	1	0	16	1	16	0
	Q Fever	0	0	3	0	8	0
	Scrub Typhus	32	4	208	0	192	0
Toxoplasmosis	0	1	19	0	11	0	
Tularemia	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Category V	Ebola Virus Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Lassa Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Marburg Hemorrhagic Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Coronavirus Infections	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Novel Influenza A Virus Infections	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Rift Valley Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0
Severe Pneumonia with Novel Pathogens	279722	48	6232904	31348	15381	858	
Yellow Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	

1. ★The weekly and cumulative total numbers include indigenous and imported cases of notifiable infectious diseases.
2. MDR-TB, Tuberculosis, Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, HIV Infection, AIDS, Hansen’s Disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease are excluded from the table.
3. Numbers of mumps and tetanus cases are summed up by the week of report.
4. Since 2022/6/23, " Monkeypox " was listed as a Notifiable Infectious Disease.
5. Hantavirus syndrome was no longer classify Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS) and Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) since 2022.

Suspected Clusters

- Eleven clusters related to diarrhea (5), tuberculosis (6) were reported during week 38.

Imported Infectious Diseases

- There were 1585 imported cases from 33 countries during week 38.
 - Severe Pneumonia with Novel Pathogens:** 1582 cases from Vietnam (168), USA (82), Germany (36), Thailand (35), Singapore (27), the Philippines (26), Indonesia (20), Malaysia (15), Japan (13), UK (13), Cambodia (12), France (12), Korea (12), Myanmar (11), Canada (10), and the remaining 18 countries have less than 10 cases, 1020 unknowns.
 - Dengue Fever:** 3 cases from Philippines (1), Cambodia (1), Myanmar (1).
- During week 1–38, there were 31432 imported cases from 128 countries. The top three countries are Vietnam (3900), USA (2337), Indonesia (1271).
- During week 1–38, the notifiable diseases with the highest number of imported cases is Severe Pneumonia with Novel Pathogens (31348).

Summary of Epidemic

- **Severe Pneumonia with Novel Pathogens :** The COVID-19 epidemic in Taiwan reach a plateau, the risk for local transmission is persistence.
- **Dengue Fever:** There has been new case in the previous cluster in Kaohsiung City. The risk of Dengue Fever infection continues because of rainfall in recent days.

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