

PREVENT AND CONTROL COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Description

If the department believes there is a disease that can be dangerous to the community, it can restrict access to and from the area where the source of the disease may be found. This restriction may be enforced for as long as it is necessary to determine the source or cause of a disease.

This is done to prevent the spread of the disease from one person to another, which can cause serious illness, disability or death.

Steps to follow

When the proper authorities are notified of a communicable disease in their area and are satisfied that if the disease should spread it will pose a real danger to public health, they can get a written order to:

- close any teaching facility or entertainment, recreation or amusement area that falls within the affected district
- regulate or restrict attendance at teaching facilities
- regulate, restrict or prohibit meetings, receptions or other public gatherings within the district
- place an affected person under quarantine (isolation) to prevent the disease from spreading.

A doctor will ask for a list of people who were exposed to the source of the disease and medically examine them.

The authorities may restrict any person or group found on the premises for a period of not longer than 12 hours to question or examine them.

Legal framework

This service is provided in terms of the [National Health Act, 2003 \(Act 61 of 2003\) \[pdf\]](#) and [Notice No. R2438 of 30 October 1987](#).

Service standard

Any person who is placed in isolation may not leave the premises or area before the prescribed isolation period has expired without prior authorisation of the Director-General or a medical doctor.

Cost

The service is free.

Forms to complete

Forms will be completed on arrival at the institution.