

Public Health Law of Georgia

Chapter 1

General Provisions

Article 1. Purpose of the Law

The purpose of this law is the promotion of the healthy lifestyle and protection of the population's health; provision of the environment that is safe to human health; protection of the reproductive health of the family; prevention of the contagious and non-contagious diseases.

Article 2 Activities Covered by the Law

1. The requirements and limitations defined by this law are equally obligatory for any physical or legal entity on the territory of Georgia.
2. This law doesn't affect the individual treatment and rehabilitation of the physical entities if not directly derived from this law.

Article 3. Definition of Terms

- a) Public Health Care-Unity of measures designed for the improvement of the population's health, disease prevention and control.
- b) Ministry- Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Assistance
- c) Public Health Service- Appropriate Public Health Care Service of the Ministry
- d) Health Care Providers- All legal and physical entities providing healthcare who have the State Certificate or Appropriate Medical License for performing the independent medical service
- e) Epidemic-substantial raise of the disease incidence comparing to the background disease on the given territory or among the specific group of the population in any given period of time.
- f) Epidemic Outbreak- Sharp increase of the number of new cases of the contagious disease among the limited number of people during the short period of time.
- g) Pandemic- Unusually wide spreading of the contagious disease (several countries, continent or on global scale), that involves substantial part of the population

- h) Epidemic Hotbed- describes the location of the infection source and the adjacent territory where the infection of the healthy humans by the infectious agent is possible in the given circumstances.
- i) Especially Dangerous Infections- The diseases caused by the pathogenic biological agents (microorganisms) that create the especial risk for human and /or animal health.
- j) Epidemiological Surveillance- Epidemiologic surveillance is the ongoing systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of data reflecting the current health status of population.
- k) Isolation- separation of sick or infected person for a period of disease's communicability in a specific location and/or under conditions that minimize or eliminate the risk of direct or indirect transmission of the disease to other humans.
- l) Quarantine activities – unity of measures enforced towards healthy person who is not sick but has been exposed to a communicable disease case during the period of communicability.
- m) Prophylaxis treatment-Execution of the medical intervention (vaccination, receiving the specific drugs) among the risk-group patients in order to prevent the spread of the infectious disease.
- n) Preventive vaccination- Injecting the vaccine in one's body (vaccination) for developing the specific immunity against the infectious disease.
- o) National Calendar for the preventive vaccination- the list of the infectious diseases for which the preventive vaccination should be performed and age indications, timetable and regulation for performing those.
- p) Nosocomial Infection- infection acquired during hospitalization.
- q) Zoonotic Diseases- The diseases that are shared by the humans and animals.
- r) Pathogenic Biological Agent – micro organism, biological toxin, also the object or material of any origin containing them.
- s) International Health Regulations- Document accepted by the WHO 58th General Assembly that represents the global instrument for preventing the diseases' spread.
- t) Biological Safety- The system of organizational, bio-medical, technical-engineering activities and means to protect the personnel, population and environment for the exposure to pathogenic biological agents;
- u) Circulation of the chemical substances- The import, export, transit of the chemical substances.
- v) Sanitary Norms- The technical regulations enacted by the Ministry for providing the Public Health Care.
- w) Hygienic Norms- Mandatory Norms enacted by the Ministry for the certain group of people.
- x) Fortified Food Products- Food products enriched by the micro elements and vitamins that are used for preventing the diseases caused by the deficiency of the micro elements and vitamins

y) Special Contingent – For the purposes of this Law the special contingent consists of all persons who are not able or have limited ability to make independent decision (minors, people with limited abilities, seniors, patient in hospital) and who's freedom of actions have been limited by the State.

Article 4. The Basic Principles of the Public Health Law

1. Providing the preventive measures for averting the threats related to the Public health
2. Clear separation of authority of Government Bodies in Public Health sphere and their close informational coordination while planning and implementing the healthcare activities.
3. Clear separation of the responsibilities in healthcare sphere of National and Local Authorities.
4. Provision of the Public Health according to the International Agreements adopted by Georgia, also following the Basic Human Rights and Freedoms recognized by the Georgian Legislature.

Chapter II

Rights and Responsibilities of the Population and Legal Entities regarding the Public Healthcare sphere

Article 5 Rights and Responsibilities of the Population and Legal Entities regarding the Public Healthcare sphere

1. Every person on territory of Georgia is obliged to:
 - a) Not perform any activity that creates the threat of spreading the communicable and non-communicable diseases or risks associated with health care.
 - b) Receive all appropriate medical procedures in case of potential spread of communicable diseases as requested by the relevant authorities, which will prevent the risk to the health of other humans.
 - c) Stop the activity if one creates the threat or the Public Health
 - d) Follow the sanitary and epidemiological Norms
 - e) Inform the Public Health Service about all emergencies related to the violation of sanitary norms in industrial and technological processes.
 - f) Receive the vaccination when there is an outbreak or wide spreading or possible epidemic of communicable disease, providing that there are no side effects.

g) Receive the preventive vaccination when involved in the activity associated with the high risk of spreading the communicable disease.

2. Every person being in Georgia has a right to:

a) Be protected in all medical healthcare providing facilities from being exposed to the communicable disease

b) Refuse to participate in preventive activities if there is no threat of epidemic or pandemic. People whose activities are associated with the high risk of spreading the communicable diseases can not refuse the participation in preventive activities.

c) Leave in the safe environment.

d) Receive complete, timely and accurate information about the meaning and necessity of the preventive vaccination, expected clinical results, the risks associated with it and in case of refusing the vaccination about the possible results.

3. Every Enterprise has the responsibility to:

a) Follow the Public Health Care Legislature

b) Inform the Public Health Service about all emergencies related to the violation of sanitary norms in industrial and technological processes.

c) Not following the requirements given in this article is subject to legal prosecution.

Chapter III Prevention of Communicable Diseases

Article 6 State Obligations in Preventing the Communicable Diseases

State Provides:

a) Organization and supervision of the vaccination defined by the national calendar of the preventive vaccination.

b) Procurement of all necessary preparations for the vaccination, supervision on their storage and transportation.

c) In presence of Epidemiological indications preventive vaccination and organizes the detection of the communicable disease.

Article 7. Responsibilities of the Ministry in Prevention of the Communicable Diseases

1. The Ministry Provides:

a) Epidemiological Surveillance of the Communicable Diseases

b) Prevention of the Communicable Diseases including the preventive vaccination.

- c) Supervision of the vaccination defined by the National Calendar and Epidemiological Indications
- d) Maintenance of the statistical data about the preventive vaccination.
- e) Maintaining the statistics about the communicable diseases including the especially dangerous infectious diseases.
- f) Laboratory Confirmation of the Epidemiological Outbreak and Epidemic of Communicable Diseases.
- g) Treatment of the infected persons for preventing the disease spread.
- h) The Ministry provides the availability of the preventive vaccination for all entities on the territory of Georgia.

2. The Ministry for performing the preventive vaccination:

- a) Defines the timeline and regulation for performing the preventive vaccination and maintains the immunization forms and applicable medical documentation.
- b) Makes the decision to perform the preventive vaccination based on epidemiological indications.
- c) Provides the maximum coverage by the vaccination defined by the national calendar of all persons residing on the territory of Georgia.
- d) Controls the provision of the healthcare providers with the high quality, effective and safe preparations.
- e) Defines the regulation for storage and transportation of the preparations necessary for the vaccination.
- f) Performs the control of the storage and transportation of the preparations necessary for the vaccination.

3. The Ministry defines the regulation for Epidemiological Surveillance, Prevention and Control of Nosocomial Infections.

4. By the decrees of the Minister of Labor, Health and Social Assistance the following being defined:

- a) The national calendar of preventive vaccination
- b) List of professional activities that require mandatory immunization
- c) Ministry defines the list of professional activities characterized by the high risk of communicable diseases and the list of appropriate preventive measures.
- d) The Ministry dispenses the information among above mentioned persons about the recommended vaccination

e) The list of the facilities where the employment of the physical entities is allowed only after performing the preventive vaccination

5. Preventive Immunization regulation in Armed Forces, other military units and Penitentiary facilities are defined by Minister of Labor, Health and Social Assistance, if not defined otherwise by the legislature of Georgia.

6) The Ministry disseminates the information about the preventive activities to be performed, about the vaccination among them.

7) The Ministry defines the Sanitary Norms for the Penitentiary Facilities.

Article 8 Responsibilities of Healthcare Providers for Preventing the Communicable Diseases

1. Healthcare providers should provide to the physical entities residing in Georgia full, timely and complete information about the preventive vaccination and its necessity, expected clinical outcome, the risks associated with it, and possible consequences in case of refusal. Healthcare providers should give the information to the legal guardian when the person is incapable or partially incapable.

2. When the person refuses the preventive vaccination, Healthcare provider should complete the document according to the existing form defined by the Ministry.

3. Healthcare providers should submit the information to the Public Healthcare Service about the preventive vaccination performed, according to the rule defined by the Ministry.

4. Healthcare providers should submit the statistical report to the authorized agency according to the rule defined by the Ministry.

5. Healthcare providers should provide the prevention and control of the nosocomial infections.

Article 9 Prevention of the Communicable Diseases while traveling abroad

1. Organizations providing the tourist services should inform the tourists:

a) About the possible risk of contracting the disease associated with visiting the given country

b) About the necessity of preventive vaccination and other preventive activities

2. Preventive vaccination and other preventive activities during the travel are performed at the expense of the traveler

3. In the case of business trip the vaccination and other preventive measures are provided at the employer's expense.

Chapter IV

Detection of the Communicable Diseases, Isolation and Quarantine

Article 10. Requirements in case of possible Communicable disease and detection

1. Public Healthcare Service is authorized to request the mandatory medical check in case when the reasonable doubt about the possibility being the infection carrier exists and therefore presents the threat to Public Health. Above should be done in accordance to requirements of basic Human Rights and Freedoms.
2. Healthcare provider should inform the Public Health Service about every identified case of the communicable disease according to the rule defined by the Ministry.
3. If person is confirmed to be the carrier of the infection, Public Healthcare service and healthcare providers are authorized:
 - a) To subject the person to additional medical examination and/or appropriate treatment and/or to receive the appropriate consultation
 - b) To receive from the person the names of other persons who have had and/or have the close contacts during the contagious period.

Article 11 Isolation of the person and Quarantine

1. In case of Emergency situation a person will be placed in quarantine and/or isolated by the Department of Emergency Situation
2. A person can appeal the decision according to procedure defined by the legislation.
3. The decision to isolate and/or place a person in quarantine is made by the Public Health Service following the principles of the European Convention about “Basic Human Rights and Freedoms”.
4. The State provides the medical care of a person isolated or placed in quarantine.
5. In case of placing the incapable person and/or a person with limited capabilities in isolation or in quarantine the legal representative should be notified in writing. Written notice should contain the legal grounds of placing the person in isolation or quarantine and prognosed length of stay.

Article 12 Responsibilities of the Governmental Commission of Emergency Management during the especially dangerous epidemic or pandemic

1. Especially Dangerous epidemic or pandemic represents the emergency situation which will be managed by the Governmental Commission of Emergency Management according to the law about “Preventing the Population and Territory from the Natural and Technogenic Emergency situations”.

2. The Government approves the charter of the Governmental Commission of Emergency Management

3. Below are the roles and responsibilities of Governmental Commission of Emergency Management during the especially dangerous epidemic or pandemic:

- a) Management Coordination of the situation caused by the especially dangerous epidemic or pandemic
- b) Making the decision about changing the epidemic hotbed borders in coordination with the authorities.
- c) Demand from any person located in the epidemic hotbed to undergo the physical exam.
- d) Through the appropriate services provide the quarantine activities against all persons located in the epidemic hotbed.
- e) In case of necessity evacuate the person from the epidemic hotbed.
- f) In case of epidemic provide control on access and exit to and from the epidemic zone.
- g) Provide control on access and exit to and from the epidemic zone of all transportation means.
- h) Provide inspection of any cargo, goods or parcels.
- i) Mobilize the material resources and transportation for performing the appropriate anti epidemiological measures.
- j) Inform the public during the epidemics through the media.
- k) Organize the hospitalization and isolation of the patients.
- b) Perform the quarantine activities for the patients' contacts
- c) Provide the control on food products, delivery and transportation.
- d) Organize the delivery of high quality drinking water and proper decontamination processes of contaminated water during the emergency situation
- e) Provide the information to population about the necessary activities during the epidemics and pandemics.
- f) Provide control on all transportation routs from the epidemic zone in coordination with the local authorities.

Article 13 Control of Zoonotic Diseases

1. For protecting the population of Georgia from the zoonotic diseases the Georgian Government defines the rule of the information exchange between the Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture in the cases where disease is detected.

2. Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture in case of detected zoonotic disease jointly perform the activities for elimination of the epidemic outbreak.

3. The Ministry develops the Rabies prevention program and defines the policy for the preventing the population from rabies

4. The Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia is responsible for providing the animal vaccines against the rabies, their storage and transportation; also for maintaining the database for the animal vaccination.

Article 14. Control of Food borne Diseases

1. The Georgian Government defines the regulation for coordinating the activities for disease elimination between the Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia.

2. The Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia provides the information about Food Safety and Quality Control Surveillance results and data to the Ministry on regular basis for providing the planning and implementing the prevention of the food borne diseases outbreaks according as defined by the Government.

Article 15 Prevention and Control of Specific Infections

1. The Ministry provides the development of the prevention and control strategy and organizes its implementation for the following specific diseases:

- a) Tuberculosis
- b) HIV-AIDS

2. The Ministry defines the norms related to donating the blood, safety of using the blood and its components, their production, storage and usage, donor health and their rights by the special legislature.

Chapter V

Providing the Biological Safety

Article 16 Providing the Biological Safety

1. The Ministry performs the implementation of the National Strategy for providing the biosafety to the population. Performs the complex organizational, medical-biological and engineering-technological activities protecting the population, personnel working with the Pathogenic biological Agents and the environment.

2. The Ministry develops the list of Especially dangerous Pathogens. Once in every 3 years and also, when necessary -the Ministry should update the list of especially dangerous infections.

3. It is prohibited to possess the pathogenic biological agents of the type and quantity that can not be justified by the diagnostic, research or other peaceful reasons.

4. The Ministry the regulation and norms for handling, transferring, transporting and destroying the Especially Dangerous Pathogens; also their research and control methodologies.

5. The Ministry develops Sanitary-Hygiene Norms for the laboratories working with the Especially Dangerous Pathogens and defines the qualification requirements for the personnel and principals for their health surveillance.

Article 17 Limitations of possessing, using, transferring, transporting and destroying the Especially Dangerous Pathogens

1. Only the legal entities possessing the license for working with Especially Dangerous Pathogens can work on EDPs.

2. The Government develops a list of physical entities which are prohibited to possess, use, transfer, transport and destroy the especially dangerous pathogens because of previous convictions or being suspected in terrorism.

3. At the request of the Ministry the Government develops the additional technical and safety requirements which represent the additional conditions for issuing the above mentioned license.

4. The National Repository of Especially Dangerous Pathogens is created by the Order of the Ministry.

5. The Ministry in coordination with the relevant authorities defines the regulation of transferring and transporting the especially dangerous infectious diseases' agents which are mandatory for all governmental entities that participate in the transfer and /or transportation of the especially dangerous infectious diseases' agents

6. Transfer of the especially dangerous infectious diseases agents is allowed only to the entity with the appropriate license. The licensed entity should be notified about the all intended transportations and the transportation should be performed according to the rule defined by the Ministry.

Article 18 Destroying the Especially Dangerous Infectious Diseases' Agents

1. Especially Dangerous Infectious Diseases' Agents should be destroyed according to the regulations defined by the Ministry

2. The qualified personnel should maintain the records about the species and quantities of the Especially Dangerous Infectious Diseases' Agents being destroyed.

3. In case of the identification of the Especially Dangerous Infectious Disease Agent the laboratory should notify the legal entity where the National repository of Especially dangerous Pathogens is located and should transfer the pathogens to the Repository or destroy them according to the Ministry's instruction.

Article 19 Import and Export of Especially dangerous Infectious Agents

1. The Government of Georgia defines the regulation for export and import of Especially dangerous Infectious Agents. These regulations guarantee the use of especially dangerous infectious agents for the peaceful reasons only.

2. Import and export of Especially Dangerous Infectious Agents is allowed only in the cases when the recipient entity, organization or facility has the appropriate permit or license for performing such activities issued by the appropriate agencies of the recipient Country.

Article 20 The functions of the appropriate service of the Ministry in Biosafety field

The appropriate service of the Ministry performs the activities in the emergency situations related to the especially dangerous infections.

Article 21 The laboratory System of Detection and Response of Especially Dangerous Infectious Agents

1. The Government of Georgia establishes the Integrated Laboratory System of Detecting, Epidemiological Surveillance and Response of Especially Dangerous Infectious Agents.

2. The management of the Integrated Laboratory System of Detecting, Epidemiological Surveillance and Response of Especially Dangerous Infectious Agents is performed by the Coordination Council. The structure and staffing of the council is defined by the provision approved by the Government of Georgia.

3. The Laboratory System consists of the network of different biosafety level laboratories.

4. The Government of Georgia develops the action plan for the activities performed by the laboratory.

5. Biological safety laboratories should comply with the international standards.

Chapter VI

Providing the Environment Safe for Public Health

Article 22 Providing the Environment Safe to Public Health

1. The Ministry develops the qualitative norms for providing the safe environment (air, water, soil, noise level, vibration, electromagnetic radiation) by approving the acceptable concentration limits and defining the norms for harmful effect.
2. Appropriate authorities provide the control of adherence to the qualitative norms by the entities.
3. Entities who violate the environmental qualitative norms are subject to legal prosecution as defined by the Georgian legislature
4. It is illegal to acquire, produce, manufacture, circulate, use and waste disposal of radioactive substances and other sources of the ionizing radiation without special authorization.
5. Entity should stop the usage of radioactive substances and other sources of the ionizing radiation if the norms of safety are being violated and there is a threat to human health.
6. The Ministry develops and approves the safety norms for working with the radioactive substances and other sources of the ionizing radiation, including treatment and diagnostics by medical radiology methodologies.
7. Qualitative conditions of the environment in the places of human residence or permanent location should not pose any threat to health and should not exceed the limit of the norms defined by the Ministry.
8. Entities that violate the qualitative norms of the environment in the places of human residence or permanent location are subject to legal prosecution as defined by the legislature.
9. Provision of the nuclear and radiological safety is regulated by the special legislature.

Article 23 Providing Water Safe for Public Health

1. The Ministry defines the qualitative norms and technical regulations for the safe drinking water according to World Health Organization's recommendations.
2. The Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia controls compliance with the defined safety parameters for the drinking water and performs the external, selective laboratory control of drinking water.
3. The Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia provides:
 - a) Design and implementation of the Integrated State Policy of Water Resources Management, using sustainable development and basin based principals of water resources management.
 - b) Protection of the water resources from the negative impact that can damage the population's health, worsen the water supply conditions and cause the qualitative changes.

- c) Organization of the State System of water usage.
- d) Planning and implementation of limiting or stopping the water usage in emergency situations.

4. Internal Quality Control of water and External laboratory Audits are performed by the accredited independent laboratories.

Chapter VII

Safety of Chemical, Technological Processes and Procedures

Article 24 Chemical Safety

1. The Ministry develops the classification of the chemical substances, defines the rule for attributing the substance to the certain class of toxicity and hazard, packaging, marking and labeling requirements, material safety data sheet format and the amount of information to be entered.

2. Production, circulation, delivery, sale, storage, usage and utilization of the chemical substances are performed according to defined safety norms and are subject to Governmental Surveillance.

3. According to the legislature of Georgia, Hazardous Chemicals belong to the group of limited circulation materials. The list of these materials is being approved by the Government of Georgia.

4. The issues of safety of the chemical substances are regulated by the special legislature.

Article 25 Safety of the Technological Processes in working areas

The State Control of the Safety of the Technological Processes in working areas is performed by the Technical Surveillance Inspection as defined by the Georgian Legislature.

Article 26 Product Safety

1. In order to provide human health, products manufactured on the territory of Georgia or imported should comply with the safety norms.

2. In case of the violation of Sanitary Norms the entity should stop the production, import, export, transportation, sale and usage of the product until the violation is eliminated.

Chapter VIII

The Policy of Healthy Lifestyle, Children and Adult health

Article 27 Healthy Eating Habits

1. The Ministry defines the Food Safety Norms and Healthy Eating Habits
2. The Ministry develops the list of facilities which should comply with the norms of nutrition rations.
3. The Ministry develops and approves sanitary and hygienic norms and physiological norms required by the human body, which are mandatory for the facilities where the special contingent is located.
4. The Ministry defines the safety norms for children's food products (including infants); also the norms of fortified n and special usage (diet, diabetic) food products.
5. The Ministry develops the policy against the abnormalities caused by the malnutrition or the excess of nutrition

Article 28 Providing the Maternity, Infant and Youth Health

- 1) The Ministry defines:
 - a) The Heath policy for maternity, infants and youth
 - b) Reproductive Health Policy
 - c) In cooperation with other competent ministries and international organizations provides the environment optimal for the children's health.

Article 29 Control of Tobacco Usage

1. The Ministry implements the policy for reducing and eliminating the usage of tobacco.
2. The issues of tobacco usage are regulated by the special legislature.

Article 30 The Policy against the drug addiction, drug abuse and alcoholism

The Ministry defines the Policy against the drug addiction, drug abuse and alcoholism.

Chapter IX

Jurisdiction of State and Local Authorities in the field of Public Health

Article 31 Jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Assistance

1. Authorization of the Ministry in Public Health Policy:

- a) Defining the policy of Public Health
- b) Monitoring the Public Healthcare
- c) Development of the State Programs within the jurisdiction of this law
- d) Defining the policy for non-contagious disease and its implementation
- e) Development of Biosafety Policy
- f) Defining the policy of providing the children's and youth healthcare
- g) Defining the healthy lifestyle policy

2. The Ministry defines:

- a) The list of communicable diseases the carriers of which are obliged to undergo appropriate medical examination
- b) The norms of appropriate medical examination
- c) Activities and methodologies for prevention, management and elimination of spread of communicable diseases, including the especially dangerous infections.

3. Jurisdiction of the Ministry in the field of Public Healthcare:

- a) Defining the rules of implementation of Medical- Preventive activities by the statutory act.
- b) Defining the qualitative norms of the environment.
- c) Developing the list of chemical substances which can not be used for production of household and cosmetic goods, synthetic raw materials.
- d) Defining the rules of safety and labeling of specialized food products (diet, diabetic, fortified) also for infant and child food products.
- e) Defining the regulations for possessing, using transferring, transporting and disposing of especially dangerous infectious agents, identification of their research and control methodologies.
- f) Defining the Labor Safety Norms
- g) Development of occupational diseases' list and defining the rules of their prevention

3. The Ministry performs the monitoring and control of implementation of the sanitary and anti-epidemic activities by all healthcare providers.

4. The Ministry performs the monitoring in Biosafety field.

Article 32 Jurisdiction of the Government of Georgia in the field of Public Health:

1. The Government of Georgia:

- a) Establishes the Integrated Laboratory System of detection, surveillance and response of especially dangerous infectious pathogens.
- b) Develops the plan of activities of the laboratory network.
- c) Develops a list of physical entities which are prohibited to possess, use, transfer, transport and destroy the especially dangerous pathogens because of previous convictions or being suspected in terrorism.
- d) Approves the technological plan for performing the sanitary-quarantine control at the State border and customs.

Article 33 Jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia in the field of Public Health

Following is within jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia in the field of Public Health:

- a) Development and Implementation of Food Safety Policy
- b) Control of the adherence to Food Safety requirements
- c) Definition of the norms and registration of the burial places for animals and birds that died from especially dangerous infection.
- d) Registration of pesticides and agronomic chemicals
- e) State control of the conditions of transportation, sale and storage of pesticides.
- f) Vaccination of the animals in case of epizootic threat.
- g) Controls compliance with the defined safety parameters for the drinking water and performs the external, selective laboratory control of drinking water.
- h) Coordination with the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Assistance, Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources, Ministry of Internal Affairs during the emergency situation liquidation activities.

Article 34 Jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia in the field of Public Health:

1. Following is within jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia in the field of Public Health:

- a) Organizing the monitoring of soil contamination
- b) Design and implementation of the Integrated State Policy of Water Resources Management, using sustainable development and basin based principles of water resources management.
- c) Protection of the water resources from the negative impact that can damage the population's health, worsen the water supply conditions and cause the qualitative changes.
- d) Organization of the State System of permitting on water usage.
- e) Planning and implementation of limiting or stopping the water usage in emergency situations.
- f) Organization of Air Quality monitoring in the populated areas.
- g) Organization of monitoring of noise, vibration, non-ionizing radiation
- h) Organization of monitoring of radiation background.
- i) Providing the dosimetry monitoring at the facilities using the ionizing radiation.
- j) Licensing the nuclear and radiation activities.

k) Coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Assistance and Ministry of Internal Affairs during the liquidation activities of emergency situation caused by the chemical substances.

Article 35. Jurisdiction of other ministries in the field of Public Health

2. The Ministry and Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia jointly define the sanitary and hygienic norms for the educational, educational-day care and day care facilities.

3. Jurisdiction of Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia:

a) Control of the adherence to hygienic and sanitary norms in the Armed Forces of Georgia and Military Units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

b) Implementation of the preventive measures in the Armed Forces of Georgia and Military Units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

c) The Ministry defines the sanitary and hygienic norms for the Armed Forces of Georgia and Military Units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs together with the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

4. Jurisdiction of Ministry of Justice in the Penitentiary facilities:

a) Control of the adherence to the sanitary norms in the penitentiary facilities.

b) Implementation of preventive health activities in the penitentiary facilities.

5. The Ministry and Ministry of Justice define the sanitary and hygiene norms jointly for the penitentiary and detention facilities.

6. Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia should immediately inform the Public Health Service about every case that can pose possible threat to the safety and health of population.

7. Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia provide the medical statistics data to the Ministry according to the existing regulations.

8. Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Assistance and Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources during the liquidation activities of emergency situations caused by the chemical substances.

Article 36. Jurisdiction of Local Authorities in the field of Public Health

By this Law the following jurisdiction is delegated to Local Authorities:

a) Performing the preventive measures against animals spreading the communicable diseases including the vaccination against rabies

b) Control of adherence to the hygiene and sanitary norms in educational, day-care- educational and day-care facilities.

c) Performing disinfestations, disinsection and disinfection on the territory of municipality for preventing the disease spread.

d) Assisting in performing the preventive activities in educational, day-care –educational and day-care facilities.

- e) Control of adherence to sanitary norms in the public facilities on the territory of municipality.
- f) Receiving, storage and distribution to the healthcare providers of the materials provided by the Ministry for immunologic prophylaxis according to the National calendar of preventive vaccination.
- g) Implementing the preventive and epidemiological control measures in case of epidemic threat
- h) Supporting the primary epidemiological research activities on the territory of municipality.

Article 37. Jurisdiction of Autonomous Republic in the field of Public Health

1. According to the legislature of Ajara Autonomous Republic the Supreme Authorities of the Ajara Autonomous Republic can delegate the jurisdictions defined in the Article 36 to the local authorities of Ajara Autonomous Republic or other appropriate agencies of Republic of Ajara.
2. Functions and Responsibilities defined in the Articles 31,33, 24 and 35 of this Law can be delegated to the appropriate Government Institutions by the decision of appropriate competent bodies.

Article 38. Organizational Structure of Public Health

The Ministry defines the Public Health Policy, which is implemented by the appropriate service of the Ministry responsible for Public Health.

Article 39 Labor/Human Resources in the field of Public Health

1. The Ministry develops the list of Public Health Professions and defines the competences for those professions
2. Public Health and Epidemiology Specialists are trained at the University level according to appropriate curriculum receiving the Bachelor of Public Health or/and higher degrees.
3. Persons who completed the professional training courses in public health and epidemiology represent the Public Health Professionals.

Chapter X

Financing the Public Healthcare Activities

Article 40 Financing Sources

Financing Sources of eh Public Health Activities are:

- a) Finances allocated form the State, Local or Autonomous Republic Budgets
- b) Private Sources
- c) Other sources permitted by the existing legislature of Georgia

Article 41 Financing from the Budget

1. Law about the State Budget annually defines the activities that are financed by the State in the field of Public Health according to the law.
2. Local budget will finance the activities attributed exclusively to the jurisdiction of local authorities
3. Budget Law of Ajara Autonomous Republic defines the activities which are financed by the Ajara Autonomous Republic in the field of Public Health.

Chapter XI

Compensation for damages and Liability in Public Health field

Article 42 Compensation for damages and Liability in Public Health field

1. It is responsibility of Legal and Physical entities to compensate the damages cause by not adhering to the requirements of this Law.
2. If there are side effects and complications caused by the preventive vaccination performed according to the National Calendar the State provides medical service and rehabilitation free of charge, in compliance with the rule defined by the Law with the exception when the side effects after vaccination are caused by the mistake of medical personnel or facility.
3. If person develops the disability as a result of preventive vaccination according to National Calendar, this person is entitled to receive the compensation according to existing legislature.

Article 43 Responsibilities in Public Health field

1. Within the jurisdiction defined by the Public Health legislature all state agencies, physical and legal entities should comply with the requirements of this Law and by performing their activities provide the populations' healthcare.
2. All entities on the territory of Georgia should follow the requirements of Public Health Law and respect the decisions made by the Public Health service made for fulfilling the responsibilities.
3. The State is responsible for managing and financing of the preventive and control activities of communicable diseases and epidemics, population immunization according to the National Calendar of preventive vaccination.

Chapter XII

Interim and Summary Provisions

Article 44 The statutory acts to be abolished by this Law

1. After adoption of this Law the following acts will be abolished:

Order of the Minister of Labor, Health and Social Assistance of Georgia about “approving the sanitary protection zones and sanitary classification for enterprises, facilities and other objects”

“Sanitary Code of Georgia”

Article 45 The statutory acts to be adopted after enacting of this law

1. Within 1 month period the Government of Georgia should prepare the following acts:

a) Charter of the Governmental Commission of Emergency Situation Management

b) Rule of exchanging the information between the Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture once a case of disease is detected for protecting the population against the zoonotic disease

c) Rule of exchanging the information between the Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture once a case of disease is detected and coordination in eliminating the epidemiological outbreak, for controlling the food borne diseases.

d) The charter of the Coordination Council of Integrated Laboratory System for detection, epidemiological surveillance and response of especially dangerous infectious pathogens

e) Import and export Rules of Especially Dangerous Infectious pathogens.

f) Draft Law about the Water Basin Management

Article 46. Enacting the Law

This Law will enter into legal force upon publication.