

LEGAL CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAK: THAILAND'S CONTEXT

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ABSTRACT

Outbreak of infectious disease is usually a big problem. The public concern on infectious disease is usually raised and there is a requirement for the proper management of each outbreak. To effectively manage the problem, it sometimes requires the strict disease control. The legal control of infectious disease outbreak by a specific law is very interesting. Here, the author discusses on this specific issue in Thailand's context.

KEYWORDS: Law, Infectious Disease, Control, Thailand.

INTRODUCTION

Outbreak of infectious disease is usually a big problem. The public concern on infectious disease is usually raised and there is a requirement for the proper management of each outbreak. To effectively manage the problem, it sometimes requires the strict disease control. The legal control of infectious disease outbreak by a specific law is very interesting and it is accepted as an important public health preparedness [1]. Here, the author discusses on this specific issue in Thailand's context.

LEGAL CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAK

As a tropical Indochina country, there are several common tropical infectious diseases in Thailand. Some are considered highly contagious and cause high public impact. Similar to other countries, the disease control is an important duty of Center of Disease Control (CDC) Thailand. There is a specific legal control for support the work of the Thai CDC. The special Thai law called

“COMMUNICABLE DISEASES ACT BE 2558” has been launched for many years (see detail of this Act on www.ddc.moph.go.th/file/law/001.2.pdf). This specific law allows the governmental officers to command and order for necessary measures to counteract the disease outbreak [2]. Also, it allows the head of the local governmental administrator officer to declare of the controlled area for infectious disease outbreak.

A ONE YEAR (2017) RETROSPECTIVE VIEW OF USE OF LEGAL CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAK IN THAILAND

Here, the author performs an one year (2017) retrospective view of use of legal control of infectious disease outbreak in Thailand. According to the review of the local data and record, there are at least 4 declarations of legal control of infectious disease outbreaks in several provinces of Thailand.

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The focused diseases according to declarations include rabies (2), anthrax (1) and foot and mouth disease (1). It can be seen that all diseases are related to animal and some are specific problems of animal in the controlled area (such as rabies and foot and mouth disease).

Indeed, the use of legal control for infectious disease outbreak is accepted as a good measure for disease control. The strict law can result in effective detection and successful investigation of several diffuse outbreak [3]. Regarding the success of the control, Krabbe noted that "*An intensive preparation is necessary to make legal regulations work in practice*[4]."

CONCLUSION

The legal control of infectious disease outbreak becomes an important tool to fight the infectious disease outbreak in Thailand. The law can help intensify the control measures and block the problematic area aiming cutting of further progressive local transmission of the disease.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

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