

Federal Law No. (13) of 2020 **On Public Health**

We, Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates

- After perusal of the Constitution,
- Federal Law No. (1) of 1972 on the functions of the ministries and the powers of ministers, as amended,
- Federal Law No. (5) of 1979 on agricultural quarantine, as amended,
- Federal Law No. (6) of 1979 on veterinary quarantine, as amended,
- Federal Law No. (8) of 1980 on the regulation of labor relations, as amended,
- Federal Law No. (28) of 1981 on the detention and treatment of people having mental illness,
- Federal Law No. (5) of 1984 on the people practicing certain medical professions, other than physicians and pharmacists ,
- Federal Law No. (3) of 1987 on promulgating the penal code, as amended,
- Federal Law No. (35) of 1992 on promulgating the criminal procedure law, as amended,
- Federal Law No. (41) of 1992 on agricultural pesticides,
- Federal Law No. (24) of 1999 on the protection and development of the environment, as amended,
- Federal Law No. (28) of 2001 on establishing the emirates standardization and metrology authority (ESMA), as amended,
- Federal Law No. (28) of 2005 on the personal status, as amended,
- Federal Law No. (24) of 2006 on consumer protection, as amended,
- Federal Law No. (29) of 2006 on the rights of the people of determination, as amended,
- Federal Law No. (15) of 2009 on tobacco control,
- Federal Law No. (18) of 2009 on organizing the registration of births and deaths,
- Federal Law No. (8) of 2013 on prevention and control of infectious and epidemic zoonotic diseases,
- Federal Law No. (14) of 2014 on controlling communicable diseases,
- Federal Law No. (4) of 2015 on private health facilities,
- Federal Law No. (10) of 2015 on food safety,
- Federal Law No. (3) of 2016 on the child rights law “**WADIMA**”,
- Federal Decree-Law No. (4) of 2016 on the medical liability
- Federal Decree-Law No. (5) of 2016 on organizing the transfer and transplantation of human organs and tissues,
- Federal Law No. (19) of 2016 on combating commercial fraud,
- Federal Law No. (12) of 2018 on integrated management of wastes,

- Federal Law No. (5) of 2019 on organizing the practice of human medicine profession,
- Federal Law No. (7) of 2019 on medical assistance for childbearing,
- Federal Law No. (8) of 2019 on medicinal products, pharmacy profession, and pharmaceutical establishments, and
- Based on the statement presented by the Minister of Health and Prevention, and the approval of the Council of Ministers and the Federal National Council as well as the adoption of the Federal Supreme Council.

Issued the following law:

Article (1) Definitions

In implementing the provisions of this law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings indicated next to each of them, unless the text stipulates otherwise:

UAE	: United Arab Emirates
The Ministry	: The Ministry of Health and Prevention
Minister	: The Minister of Health and Prevention.
Health Authority	: Any federal or local government authority concerned with the health affairs in the UAE.
Concerned authority	: Any party related to the protection of human health and safety in the UAE, and that has a direct or indirect relationship with the implementation of the provisions of this law.
Committee	: The National Public Health Committee.
Public health	: The wellness of community members in terms of mental, psychological and social health, through the sciences, skills and practices for protecting, enhancing and ensuring the sustainability of such wellness, and the development of health-supportive environments.
Precautionary principle	: These are the preventive measures that serve to prevent a potential risk to public health.
Food	: For the purposes of this law, food means any substance or part thereof, raw or crude whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, intended to be ingested by humans through eating or drinking.
Balanced healthy food	: Food that contains basic nutrients, and micronutrients such as iodine, iron and vitamins, and to be free of hazardous ingredients and additives.

Alternative healthy food option	: A food intended to be ingested by humans, which complies with the conditions and specifications of healthy food, compared to a food that lacks such conditions and specifications.
Healthy lifestyles	: Lifestyle behaviors that maintain human health and help in preventing the diseases.
Advertising	: Directly or indirectly promoting a product or service with the intent to market, trade, or distribute the same, whether it is readable, audible, visual, or otherwise.
Wastes	: All types of hazardous or non-hazardous wastes or garbage that shall be safely disposed of.
International Health Regulations	: The rules and terms approved by the World Health Organization in accordance with its regulations and to be approved by the UAE and to be in line with the UAE legislation, to limit the spread of diseases, protect against the risks to the public, and address the public health at the international level.
Newborn	: As per the provisions of this law, a newborn is under (24) twenty four months of age.
Infant	: As per the provisions of this law, an infant is the one who exceeds (12) months to not more than (36) months of age.
Child	: Every person born alive and has not yet attained (18) eighteen years old.
Adult	: Every person who has completed (10) ten years of age and has not attained (20) twenty years old.
Elderly	: As per the provisions of this law, an elderly is an individual who has attained sixty years of age or more.
Person of determination (Handicapped)	: Any person has a permanent or temporary impairment or disability in his/her physical, sensory, mental, communicative, educational or psychological abilities, whether wholly or partially, to the extent that reduces the possibility of meeting his/her regular requirements under the circumstances of his/her normal peers.
Communicable disease	: An infectious disease that results from the transmission of a pathogen, its toxic products, or its secretions, whether in a direct or indirect manner, to others causing illness to them.

Article (2) Objectives

This law aims at:

1. Establishing an integrated system of scientific and applied rules and systems for enhancing and protecting public health in accordance with the

precautionary principle and confirmed scientific evidence, in line with the International Health Regulations, and other regulations approved by the UAE.

2. Enhancing the coordination and cooperation at all internal and external levels in the preparedness and response to address the health problems.
3. Raising the level of community awareness of the hazards and risks that affect the human health and their causes, consolidate a sense of individual and collective responsibility, and work to increase the community awareness of the methods of protecting the human health.
4. Reducing the risks affecting the human health and the community.

Article (3)

Scope of application

The provisions of this law shall apply to everything related to the public health in the UAE, including the free zones.

Article (4)

National Public Health Committee

1. A committee named the National Public Health Committee, headed by the Minister, and a number of representatives of the Ministry, health authorities and the competent authorities shall be established. Its formation, nomination of its members and its system of work shall be issued by a Council of Ministers resolution.
2. The committee shall be responsible for the following functions:
 - a. Reviewing the drafts of the strategies for protecting the public health.
 - b. Supervising the implementation of the prevention and the immediate response plans in the community.
 - c. Coordination between the roles of the Ministry, the health authority and the competent authorities with regard to the protection of public health.
 - d. Identifying the priorities and proposing the mechanisms to support and develop the public health related researches and studies.
 - e. Any other functions assigned to by the Council of Ministers

Article (5)

Developing the strategies, plans and programs

The Ministry, in coordination with the health and competent authorities, shall develop the public health related policies and strategies, and prepare plans and

programs in relation with the prevention and the immediate response in the community and the mechanisms for their implementation and evaluation.

Article 6 *Exchange of information, data and statistics*

The health and the competent authorities shall provide the Ministry with all the information, data, or statistics requested by the Ministry regarding the implementation of the provisions of this law and the resolutions issued for the implementation thereof.

The health authorities, the competent authorities and the Ministry shall exchange any information, data or statistics in this regard.

Article (7) *The staff of the Public health*

1. The Ministry, in coordination with the health and competent authorities, shall lay down the terms to be provided for the appointment, training, licensing and classification of the staff necessary to work in the public health field.
2. The Ministry shall coordinate and provide support to the authorities concerned with the Emiratization in the UAE in order to be able to achieve a progressive increase in the Emiratization rates for the medical personnel working in the UAE.

Article (8) *Cooperation and coordination to protect the public health*

The health authorities, the competent authorities and the committee shall cooperate and coordinate with the Ministry to achieve the following:

1. Monitoring the UAE's health status, and preparing the necessary periodic reports on the same.
2. Laying down the foundations and standards necessary for evaluating the overall public health programs and policies.
3. Identifying the public health problems and the health risks of priorities.
4. Identifying the management of hazardous materials affecting the public health.
5. Laying down the mechanisms for surveillance and preparedness to counter the public health risks.
6. Laying down regulations and rules for the public health information.

7. Establishing mechanisms to review the emergencies, disasters and crises of health in the UAE.
8. Any other issues on which a resolution to be issued by the Council of Ministers:

Article (9)

Enhancing the health guidance and education

The Ministry, in coordination with the health and competent authorities, shall prepare the policies and strategies for the public health related guidance, education and enhancement. The health authorities shall develop their implementation programs in accordance with such policies and strategies.

Article (10)

Family health

The Ministry and health authorities shall provide services related to family health, including the following:

1. Medical examination and health advice for those who are about to get married.
2. Reproductive health, the awareness thereof and caring for the mother, especially during pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum and breastfeeding.
3. Breastfeeding awareness and training.
4. Early detection of congenital abnormalities and genetic disorders.
5. The awareness of the family and community in how to care for and protect children.
6. Periodic medical check-ups for children, to follow up their growth and caring for their health, and to guide the mother about healthy, balanced food provided for them during their growth period.
7. The periodic updates of the preventive vaccinations and assuring their quality while providing comprehensive coverage within a specified policy.

Article (11)

Foods and products for newborns and infants

The Ministry, in cooperation and coordination with the health and competent authorities, shall set out the terms for marketing and regulating the sale of food and health products related to newborns and infants.

Article (12)
Health in educational institutions

The Ministry, in cooperation and coordination with the health and the competent authorities, shall set out the terms for enhancing and protecting the health of the students and workers of the educational institutions.

Article (13)
Health of adults

The Ministry, in cooperation and coordination with the health and competent authorities, shall set out the terms for enhancing and protecting adults in terms of the physical and psychological health and combating the negative behaviors that are hazardous to their health.

Article (14)
Health of elderly

The Ministry, in cooperation and coordination with the health and competent authorities, shall set out the terms for enhancing and protecting the health of the elderly and their integrated health care, and ensuring the provision of a suitable environment for them, including their centers and institutions.

Article (15)
Health of the people of determination

The Ministry, in cooperation and coordination with the competent authorities and health authorities, shall set out the terms for enhancing and protecting the health of the disabled people (the people of determination) and their integrated health care, and ensuring the provision of a suitable environment for them.

Article (16)
Psychological health

The Ministry, in cooperation and coordination with the health and competent authorities, shall set out the terms for enhancing and protecting the mental health of community members, providing them with the necessary health services in this regard, and ensuring their protection against psychological and mental illnesses, behavioral disorders and addiction.

Article (17)
Healthy lifestyles

The Ministry, in cooperation and coordination with the health and competent authorities, shall set out the terms and policies for healthy balanced food, and monitor the implementation of the same, in particular the following:

1. Reducing the consumption of non-healthy food.
2. Encouraging healthy food intake, in order to ensure access to healthy, balanced food.
3. Setting out the rules governing the advertisements for the healthy foods.
4. Activating the role of the authorities concerned with consumer protection in the healthy food field.
5. Setting out the standards and requirements for food labels of healthy food.
6. Setting out the standards and requirements for nutritional supplements and herbal products.
7. Setting out the rules related to the provision of the alternative healthy food option.

Article (18)
Food Safety

The Ministry, in cooperation and coordination with the health and competent authorities related to food safety shall protect the public health in the community.

Article (19)
Physical activity

The competent authorities shall coordinate with the health authority to set out the policies and measures to support and enhance the physical activity and practice sports, and following a healthy lifestyle.

Article (20)
Controlling tobacco and its derivatives

The competent authorities, in coordination with the Ministry, shall set out the policies and measures to combat tobacco and its derivatives, in accordance with the legislation in force in the UAE.

Article (21)

Researches and studies in the public health

The Ministry, health authorities, public welfare associations and public health related organizations, in cooperation and coordination with the competent authorities, shall encourage, organize and develop the scientific researches, studies and periodic statistics in the public health,

Article (22)

Health advertisements

For a health advertisement, the following shall be observed:

1. Not to be misleading.
2. Not to include anything that is not true that deceive the public,
3. Not to cause any damage to public health.
4. To fulfill the conditions, terms and procedures for which a resolution shall be issued by the Council of Ministers:

Article (23)

Occupational Health and Safety

Subject to the applicable legislations in the UAE, the Ministry, in cooperation and coordination with the health and competent authorities, shall develop and follow up the following:

1. The terms and conditions for ensuring the health and safety of workers in all work sites in the UAE, including curative, rehabilitative and preventive services.
2. Occupational health, safety and environmental management system, its periodic updates, and ensuring that the employees shall be complied with.
3. The record and follow up system for all cases of accidents, work injuries and occupational diseases.
4. The terms and conditions of health fitness for practicing and maintaining the work.

Article (24)

Communicable diseases

The Ministry, in cooperation and coordination with the health and competent authorities, shall set out the necessary policies to prevent and control the communicable diseases, including the zoonotic diseases which may pose a threat to public health.

Article (25)
Non-communicable diseases

The Ministry, in cooperation and coordination with the health and competent authorities, shall set out the policies necessary for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, as well as everything that poses a threat or risk to public health.

Article (26)
Environment health

The competent authorities shall take the necessary measures in human health protection related fields against the environmental hazards, and hazardous substances affecting the public health, and ensuring the compliance with the requirements, including:

1. The validity of water for safe use.
2. The health supervision on beaches and public swimming pools.
3. Monitoring sewage water and its networks, and purification stations, and ensuring that they are complied with the health requirements in force.
4. Waste treatment and safe disposal in accordance with the legislation in force.
5. Controlling the pests, rodents, agricultural pests and insects affecting the public health.
6. Protecting the air against pollution.
7. Protection against radiological, chemical and biological hazards.
8. Controlling the noise.
9. City planning to ensure the support and protection of public health.

Article (27)
Dealing with the products that are hazardous to public health

After coordination with the health and competent authorities, the Minister may issue a resolution, to prohibit the import, trade, promote, market, produce or manufacture any substance, product, or material that are hazardous to public health, and he may also decide to destroy, damage or dispose of the same in accordance with the terms in force in this regard.

Article (28)
Implementation of the international regulations

After coordination with the health and competent authorities, the Ministry shall supervise the application and follow-up of the implementation of the procedures

required by the international regulations, including enhancing the basic competencies necessary in this field.

Article (29)
Transfer and burial of the dead persons

After coordination with the competent authorities, the Ministry shall lay down the necessary preventive terms and conditions, and the relevant procedures regarding the transport and burial of the dead persons.

Article (30)
Cemetery sites

The competent authorities shall coordinate with the Ministry or health authorities to identify the location of cemeteries in a manner that guarantees the protection of public health.

Article (31)
Reporting system

The Ministry, in cooperation and coordination with the health and competent authorities, shall establish a system for reporting any violation to the provisions of this law.

Article (32)
Medicinal products and medical aids

All the health authorities and competent authorities shall coordinate with the Ministry in the fields related to the medicinal products and medical aids, and any other products of health use to ensure their quality, safety and availability in accordance with the requirements of protecting public health in the community.

Article (33)
Penalties

1. The penalties stipulated under this law shall not prejudice any stricter penalty stipulated under any other law.
2. Whoever commits any of the following violations shall be sentenced by a fine of no less than ten thousand AED (10,000) and not exceeding fifty thousand AED (50,000):
 - a. The requirements for healthy food.

- b. The requirements for nutritional information labels for the healthy food.
 - c. The requirements for healthy nutritional supplements and the herbal products.
 - d. The rules for providing a healthy alternative food option.
3. Whoever violates the terms and conditions related to the marketing or selling food and products related to newborns shall be sentenced by a fine of no less than fifty thousand AED (50,000) and not exceeding three hundred thousand AED (300,000), in accordance with the provisions of Article (11) herein and the resolutions issued to implement thereof.
4. Whoever supplies any educational institution or the like with food that does not comply with the health requirements and standards to be met in the same in accordance with the provisions of Article (12) herein and the resolutions issued for implementing the same, shall be sentenced by a fine of no less than fifty thousand AED (50,000) and not exceeding three hundred thousand AED (300,000), and a fine of no less than ten thousand AED (10,000) and not exceeding fifty thousand AED (50,000) for the person responsible in the place where such food was offered or sold in the educational institution or the like if it was aware of the same.
5. Whoever publishes or broadcasts a health advertisement in violation to the rules and requirements of the health advertisement system, set out in Article (22) herein, shall be sentenced by a fine of no less than fifty thousand AED (50,000) and not exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand AED (150,000).

Article (34) Judicial police

The personnel designated by a resolution issued by the Minister of Justice in agreement with the Minister, the chairman of the health authority or the chairman of the concerned authority, shall have the authority of the judicial control officers to demonstrate the violations of the provisions of this law and the issued resolutions in implementation thereof, each within the scope of their jurisdiction.

Article (35)

Based on a proposal by the Minister, the Council of Ministers may issue the necessary resolutions to implement the provisions of this law.

Article (36)

Any provision that contradicts or conflicts with the provisions of this law shall be repealed.

Article (37)

This law shall be published in the Official Gazette, and shall take effect three months after the date of its publication.

Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates

Issued by us at the presidential palace in Abu Dhabi
Dated: Rabi` Al-Awwal 24th, 1442 H
Corresponding to: November 10th, 2020