

CIRCULAR NO (DHP/2026/26)

Subject: Enhancing Compliance with the Reporting Requirements for Foodborne Diseases (Food Poisoning)

The Ministry of Public Health, Department of Healthcare Professions, extends its greetings and best wishes.

With reference to the above subject, and pursuant to the role of the Department of Healthcare Professions in regulating healthcare practices within healthcare facilities across the State of Qatar, and in accordance with the provisions of **Decree-Law No. (17) of 1990 on the Prevention of Communicable Diseases, as amended, particularly Article (2), as amended by Law No. (9) of 2020**, which requires every physician who examines a patient diagnosed with, or suspected of having, a communicable disease to report such cases to the competent authorities, as well as **Law No. (8) of 1990 on the Regulation of Human Food Control**, the following is brought to your attention.

In line with the Ministry of Public Health's commitment to strengthening the epidemiological surveillance system and ensuring the early detection of, and rapid response to, foodborne diseases listed under the schedule of communicable diseases as **food poisoning**, the Ministry urges all healthcare facilities and healthcare practitioners to report all suspected or confirmed cases immediately upon suspicion or confirmation, and no later than twenty-four (24) hours from the time the case is identified. Reporting shall be made through the electronic reporting system (**SAVES**), with all required epidemiological and clinical information completed accurately and in full, and with full co-operation extended to surveillance and rapid response teams during epidemiological investigations whenever required.

The Ministry further emphasises that the early reporting of foodborne diseases and related outbreaks is a fundamental element in enabling the competent authorities to implement the necessary preventive and response measures in a timely manner, thereby contributing to limiting the spread of disease, controlling potential outbreaks, and safeguarding public health and community safety.

Accordingly, you are kindly requested to review the attached guidance document and disseminate it to all relevant personnel within your facility. The Ministry of Public Health further urges all healthcare facilities and healthcare practitioners to fully comply with communicable disease reporting requirements in accordance with the legislation, policies, and regulations in force in the State of Qatar.

The Ministry also emphasises that non-compliance with communicable disease reporting requirements constitutes a violation of the applicable legislation and may result in appropriate legal action being taken against violators.

For further enquiries, please contact the **Health Protection and Communicable Disease Control Department (HP&CDC)** via email at: cdc@moph.gov.qa

Thank you for your co-operation.