

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT
(Cap. 63:01)

**PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF POLIOMYELITIS)
REGULATIONS, 2004**

(Published on 21st May, 2004)

REGULATION

1. Citation
2. Prevention of poliomyelitis
3. Offences and penalties

WHEREAS there was an isolation of a wild poliomyelitis virus in a child in the Ngami District, in February, 2004;

AND WHEREAS poliomyelitis is a communicable disease in terms of section 16(c) of the Public Health Act;

AND WHEREAS it has become necessary to conduct a national immunization campaign whereby all children under five years of age should be given a total of two doses of oral poliomyelitis vaccine, the second of which doses shall be given thirty days after the initial dose was given;

AND WHEREAS in view of the seriousness of poliomyelitis and its easy transmission from an infected child to an uninfected or unimmunized child, it is imperative that no parent or guardian should have the option to refuse immunization of a child under five years of age against poliomyelitis;

AND WHEREAS the Minister is required by section 16(c) of the Public Health Act to make regulations for the prevention of any communicable disease;

NOW THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred on the Minister by section 16(c) and 88 of the Public Health Act, the following Regulations are hereby made —

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| 1. These Regulations may be cited as the Public Health (Prevention of Poliomyelitis) Regulations, 2004. | Citation |
| 2. Every parent or guardian of a child under five years of age, whether that child is resident in, or visiting, Botswana shall, during the national immunization campaign, allow and cause his or her child to be immunized against poliomyelitis. | Prevention of poliomyelitis |
| 3. (1) A parent or guardian of a child under five years of age who — | Offences and penalties |
| (a) refuses to allow any health team to enter his or her home for the purpose of looking for children to be immunized; | |
| (b) refuses to allow any health team to immunize his or her child; | |
| (c) refuses to take his or her child for immunization at any centre designated for that purpose; or | |
| (d) in whatever manner, obstructs any health team in the course of the performance of their duties under these Regulations, | |
| shall be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine not exceeding P500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or to both. | |

(2) For the purposes of sub-regulation (1), “health team” means a team, consisting of health workers and trained volunteers appointed by the Minister to immunize children against poliomyelitis.

MADE this 19th day of May, 2004.

L.E. MOTSUMI,
Minister for Health.