



Public Health Bill, 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will the proposed Bill be made public?

- a. The proposed Bill will be published on 21 August. You will be able to view and download it from this site.

2. What happens after I submit my feedback?

- a. Your survey response or emailed feedback will be read by Ministry staff, and taken into consideration as we shape this legislation.

3. Why does the Cayman Islands need a new Public Health Bill?

- a. Our current Public Health Act has protected the Cayman Islands for more than 40 years, but public health has changed significantly since 1981.
- b. This Bill modernises the legislation to reflect today's health challenges and provides a stronger legal framework for protecting public health now and into the future.

4. What problems does this legislation address?

- a. The current law does not provide a clear legal framework for key public health functions such as vaccinations, health screening, disease surveillance and the collection of population health data.
- b. The COVID-19 pandemic also showed the need for stronger legislation to support a faster, more coordinated response during public health emergencies.

5. What are the main changes proposed in the Bill? The Bill will:

- a. Establish a national Department of Public Health.
- b. Formally establish the roles of the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Nursing Officer.
- c. Strengthen disease prevention, surveillance and emergency response.
- d. Enhance the frameworks for vaccination and screening programmes.
- e. Improve the collection and use of population health data, which will improve public health response and inform public health policies.
- f. Strengthen governance, accountability and quality standards.
- g. Align the Cayman Islands with modern international public health standards.

6. Why is Government creating a Department of Public Health?

- a. A national Department will provide clear leadership and coordination for public health across the Cayman Islands.



- b. It will strengthen prevention, disease surveillance, emergency preparedness and the delivery of public health programmes.

7. How will this legislation improve public health services?

- a. It creates a modern legal framework for delivering public health services.
- b. It strengthens governance and accountability.
- c. It supports better planning, earlier intervention and more coordinated services across Government.

8. How does the Bill strengthen preparedness for future public health emergencies?

- a. The Bill provides a stronger legal framework for emergency response.
- b. It improves surveillance, planning and coordination.
- c. It ensures Government is better prepared to respond quickly and effectively when new public health threats emerge.

9. Will the Bill give Government additional powers during emergencies?

- a. The purpose of this Bill is to modernise the legal framework for public health.
- b. It is about ensuring Government can respond quickly when needed to protect public health.

10. Why are environmental health provisions being moved into separate legislation?

- a. Creating separate legislation allows each area to have a modern legal framework tailored to its specific responsibilities.
- b. Together, the two Bills strengthen the overall health system while providing greater clarity and accountability.

11. How will residents benefit from these reforms? Residents will benefit through:

- a. Better protection from infectious diseases.
- b. Earlier detection of public health issues.
- c. More coordinated public health services.
- d. Better planning based on reliable health data.
- e. Stronger preparedness for future public health emergencies.

12. How can members of the public participate in the consultation?

- a. Government wants to hear from the community.
- b. The Bill will be released for public consultation, with opportunities to provide feedback online and at Town Hall meetings.
- c. We encourage everyone to review the proposals and share their views.

13. How will a dedicated Department of Public Health improve health outcomes?

- a. A dedicated Department provides stronger leadership and coordination across all public health functions.
- b. It enables a more strategic approach to prevention, health promotion, disease surveillance and emergency preparedness, leading to better health outcomes for



14. Why is better public health surveillance important?

- a. Surveillance helps us identify health issues early.
- b. Early detection allows us to respond faster, prevent outbreaks and better protect the community.
- c. It also supports more informed public health planning.

15. How will improved health data support decision-making

- a. Reliable population health data helps us understand the health needs of our population.
- b. It supports evidence-based decisions, better planning and more effective public health programmes.
- c. It also helps us direct resources where they are needed most.

16. What changes will the Bill make to disease prevention and outbreak response?

- a. The Bill strengthens disease prevention and surveillance.
- b. It provides a clear legal framework for vaccination and screening programmes.
- c. It also strengthens the ability to respond quickly and effectively during disease outbreaks.

17. How will the legislation strengthen preparedness for future health threats?

- a. It creates a stronger legal framework for emergency preparedness.
- b. It improves coordination, surveillance and public health planning.
- c. These reforms ensure we are better prepared for future public health emergencies and other public health incidents.

18. What does this legislation mean for everyday residents?

- a. It means stronger public health protection
- b. Residents will benefit from better disease prevention, earlier detection of health issues and a more coordinated public health system.
- c. Ultimately, it supports healthier communities and better health outcomes.

19. How will the Bill improve coordination across Government?

- a. The dedicated Department of Public Health will provide leadership and coordination across Government.
- b. Clear governance arrangements will support collaboration between agencies and improve the delivery of public health programmes.

20. What would success look like five years after implementation?

- a. Success would mean a modern, coordinated public health system that is better prepared for future health threats.



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- b.** We would expect stronger disease prevention, better health data, improved emergency preparedness and public health services that consistently meet modern international standards.