

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (WHO) under the revised International Health Regulations (IHR) of 2005 desires to initiate all member States to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease and other public health threats in ways that are commensurate with restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health in line with the Health Sector Reforms prioritizes the strengthening of disease surveillance and response system to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 16 (General Welfare), Section 26 and Section 458 (a)(1) of the Local Government Code of 1991 mandated the Local Government Units to use its necessary and appropriate powers to promote the general welfare of its people particularly by promoting their health and safety and enhance their right to a balance ecology;

**WHEREAS**, the City Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (CESU) gathers and provides reliable source of health related indicators which is necessary for interpretation and data analysis that aims to improve health service delivery;

**WHEREAS**, a functional integrated disease surveillance and response system would result in a considerable reduction in morbidity, mortality and disability cause by communicable diseases and other conditions in the locality;

**NOW THEREFORE**, on motion of City Councilor Rosalita T. Nuñez duly seconded by City Councilors \_\_\_\_\_, it be –

**RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to adopt the following ordinance.

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Series of 2017**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CITY EPIDEMIOLOGY SURVEILLANCE UNIT (CESU) OF GENERAL SANTOS**

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Be it enacted by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of General Santos that:

Section 1. **Short Title.** – This ordinance shall be known as “The City Epidemiology Surveillance Unit of General Santos.”

Section 2. **Declaration of Principles and Policies.** – Aligned with the national mandate to promote health and uphold safety, it shall be the policy of the Local Government Unit of General Santos City to establish a functional and well-coordinated disease surveillance system through the City Epidemiology Surveillance Unit that will operate in accordance with the national guidelines for health service delivery and public health risks.

a) The **Philippine Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (PIDSAR)** shall be guided by the following mandates and policies:

- 1) Republic Act 3573 (Law of Reporting of Communicable Disease) requiring all individuals and health facilities to report notifiable disease to local and national health authorities.
  - 2) Administrative Order No. 2007-0036, "Guidelines on the Philippine Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (PIDSR) Framework."
  - 3) International Health Regulations of 2005, Article 5.1, urging Member States to develop, strengthen and maintain, as soon as possible but no later than five years from the entry into force these Regulations, the capacity to detect, assess, notify and report events in accordance with these regulations.
  - 4) Resolution WHA48.13 (1995) urging Member States to strengthen national and local programs of active surveillance for infectious diseases, ensuring that efforts to be directed towards early detection of epidemics and prompt identification of new emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.
  - 5) Administrative Order No. 2005-0023 (Implementing Guidelines for Formula One for Health as Framework for Health Reforms), Section C2.iii, stating that "Disease surveillance shall be intensified to ensure that the targets for disease elimination, prevention and control are attained.
- b) The **Event Based Surveillance and Response** (ESR) shall be guided by the following mandates and policies:
- 1) Administrative Order No. 007-0002: Designation of the National Epidemiology Center (NEC) as the National International Health Regulations Focal Point (Annex A)
  - 2) Department Personnel Order No. 205-1585 (Creation of a Management Committee on Prevention and Control of Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases or DOHMC-PCREID) creating the Epidemiology and Surveillance Sub-Committee (ESSC) in which one of its major functions is to "formulate and recommend policies, standards, procedures, guidelines and systems on the early detection, contact tracing, surveillance, investigation and follow-up of emerging and re-emerging (EREID) suspects and the timely and accurate recording, reporting and collation of epidemiological data on EREID."
- c) The **Urban Health** shall be guided by the following mandates and policies:
- 1) Department of Health Administrative Order No. 2011-0008 (Guidelines on Urban Health Systems Development).
  - 2) Department of Health Administrative Order No. 2010-0036 (The Aquino Health Agenda: Achieving Universal Health Care for all Filipinos).

- 3) Department of Health Memorandum No. 2010-0207 (Guidelines on the use of the Urban Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool (HEART) in Highly Urbanized Cities.
- d) The **Field Health Surveillance and Response** shall be guided by the following mandates and policies:
  - 1) Executive Order No. 352 (Designation of Statistical Activities that Will Generate Critical Data for Decision-Making of the Government and the Private Sector).

Section 3. **Scope and Coverage.** – This ordinance shall cover the entire political jurisdiction of General Santos City.

Section 4. **Purpose.** – This Ordinance is enacted in response of the need to create a City Epidemiology Surveillance Unit under the City Health Office that will serve as a central point for data banking on health service delivery and disease surveillance system.

Section 5. **Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this ordinance, the following terms are defined:

- a) CESU – refers to the City Epidemiology Surveillance Unit. It serves as the central point for data banking of health service delivery and disease surveillance system.
- b) Department of Health – refers to the principal government agency responsible in the implementation of government policies to ensure public health care services to all Filipinos.
- c) Epidemiology – refers to the study of pattern of health, illness and associated factors at the population level.
- d) ESR – refers to Event-Based Surveillance and Response. It is the organized and rapid capture of information about events that are potential risk to public.
- e) FHIS – refers to Field Health Information System. A management information system provided by the Department of Health for national health statistics.
- f) IHR – refers to International Health Regulation. Legally binding regulations that aim to assist countries to work together to save lives and livelihoods endangered by the spread of diseases and other health risk to avoid unnecessary interference with international trade and travel.
- g) NEC – refers to National Epidemiology Center. It assists in the establishment of local Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (ESU) through provision of technical and logistical assistance.
- h) PIDSR – refers to Philippine Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response. It is an integrated functional disease surveillance system institutionalized from the national level down to the community level that

would result in considerable reduction in morbidity, disability, and mortality caused by communicable disease and other conditions.

- i) RESU – refers to Regional Epidemiology Surveillance Unit. It serves as focal point for coordinating surveillance and response activities at the regional level.
- j) RHU – refers to Rural Health Unit.
- k) Surveillance – refers to a type of observational study that involves continuous monitoring of disease occurrence with in the population.

Section 6. **Establishment of the City Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (CESU).** – There shall be established a City Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (CESU) under the City Health Office in General Santos City to serve as the central point for reliable health service delivery data banking and effective disease surveillance system that will operate in accordance with the given set of guidelines and policies.

Section 7. **Function of the City Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (CESU).** – The CESU shall perform the following functions:

- a) Organize systemic data collection and gather epidemiological data for PIDSR, ESR, FHSIS and Urban Health from their allied health facilities (Rural Health Unit, Sentinel Hospitals, Lying-in Clinics and Private Clinics);
- b) Prepare and periodically update data thru graphs, tables and charts to describe time, places and persons for notifiable/reportable, emerging and re-emerging diseases and conditions;
- c) Interpret and provide analyzed data as feedback to health facilities (government, private and local leaders);
- d) Identify and inform concerned personnel and institutions immediately of any unusual trends of disease or condition;
- e) Carry out outbreak investigation;
- f) Implement preliminary control measures immediately if equipped;
- g) Forward epidemiological data to the next (Department of Health Regional Office XII) on a regular basis and in accordance with the national surveillance protocol;
- h) Use epidemiological data to plan and implement non-communicable and communicable disease control activities at the local level;
- i) Provide appropriate forms to concerned institutions and personnel's as instructed by PIDSR, ESR, Urban Health and FHSIS manual of operations and modules.

Section 8. **Designation of Disease Surveillance Officer.** – To ensure the efficient and effective implementation of this ordinance, the City Mayor shall issue an Executive Order designating a Disease Surveillance Officer/City Epidemiology

Surveillance Unit Head to be responsible in manning the City Epidemiology Surveillance Unit.

Section 9. **Staffing.** – The City Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (CESU) shall be composed of one (1) Surveillance Officer, one (1) Surveillance Nurse, one (1) Urban Health Nurse, one (1) Field Health Service Information System Coordinator and one (1) Surveillance Driver.

Section 10. **Monitoring.** – The City Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (CESU) shall submit a periodic report to the Sangguniang Panlungsod through the Committee on Health and City Planning and Development Office as to the health status and development of the aforementioned programs.

Section 11. **Appropriation.** – The City Government shall allocate funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this ordinance to be under the City Health Office so as to meet the standard requirements of the Philippine Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (PIDSR), Event-Based Surveillance and Response (ESR), Urban Health and Field Health Service Information System (FHSIS).

Section 12. **Repealing Clause.** – All previous ordinances and provisions inconsistent with this ordinance shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 13. **Separability Clause.** – If for any reasons any part or provisions of this ordinance shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 14. **Effectivity.** – This ordinance shall take 15 days after its publication in a newspaper or general circulation in General Santos City.

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July 19, 2017

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