

AUGUST 2023

ARMA UPDATES

General Law Update



Regulation Update on COVID-19 Endemic Status

On June 22, 2023, Indonesian Government announce the revocation of the COVID -19 Pandemic status in Indonesia, through Presidential Decree 17 of 2023. As Indonesia is entering an endemic period, President Joko Widodo issued Presidential Regulation 48 of 2023 on Termination of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic Response (“PR 48/2023”) to further clarify the government's approach towards the COVID-19 endemic.

This ARMA Update discusses the key points of PR 48/2023 along with its implications on the handling of COVID-19 in Indonesia.

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The Disbandment of the Committee for Handling COVID-19 and National Economic Recovery

In 2020, President Joko Widodo established the Committee for Handling COVID-19 and National Economic Recovery (“**Committee**”), as a pivotal strategy to integrate the balance of public health policy and economic policy. Through Article 2 of PR 48/2023, the government declared that the Committee has completed its term and is now disbanded. The responsibility for managing COVID-19 during the endemic phase will now shift to the Ministry of Health. This transition underscores a shift from a crisis-oriented approach to a more sustainable and long-term approach.

It is worth noting that all policies that are issued by the Covid Committee, along with the rights and obligations arising before the enforcement of PD 17/2023, will remain in effect until the fulfillment of those rights and obligations are in accordance with the law.

Provisions Regarding COVID-19 Drugs and Vaccines

Article 3 of PR 48/2023 provides a clarification regarding the utilization of COVID-19 medications and vaccines after the conclusion of the COVID-19 pandemic phase as follows:

- COVID-19 medicines and vaccines that were procured before the enforcement of PD 17/2023 can still be used until the expiration date;
- COVID-19 medicines and vaccines that have obtained emergency use authorization before the enforcement of PD 17/2023 can still be used as long as they continue to meet the criteria of efficacy, safety, and quality; and
- Further provisions regarding the use of COVID-19 medicines and vaccines will be regulated by the head of the National Agency of Drug and Food Control (“**BPOM**”).

Conclusion

The transition from pandemic to endemic status for COVID-19 marks a significant turning point for Indonesia. The issuance of PR 48/2023 reflects the government's proactive stance in adapting to the changing circumstances. This regulation streamlines the nation's response, allowing for a shift from crisis management to a long-term approach.

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