



Sosial- og helsedirektoratet

*Directorate for Health and Social Affairs*

## **Preparedness against biological incidents**

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- Co-ordination and responsibility
- Law
- Specific preparedness

# Health preparedness legislation – basic principles

## Proximity

- Crises should be handled on the lowest possible level

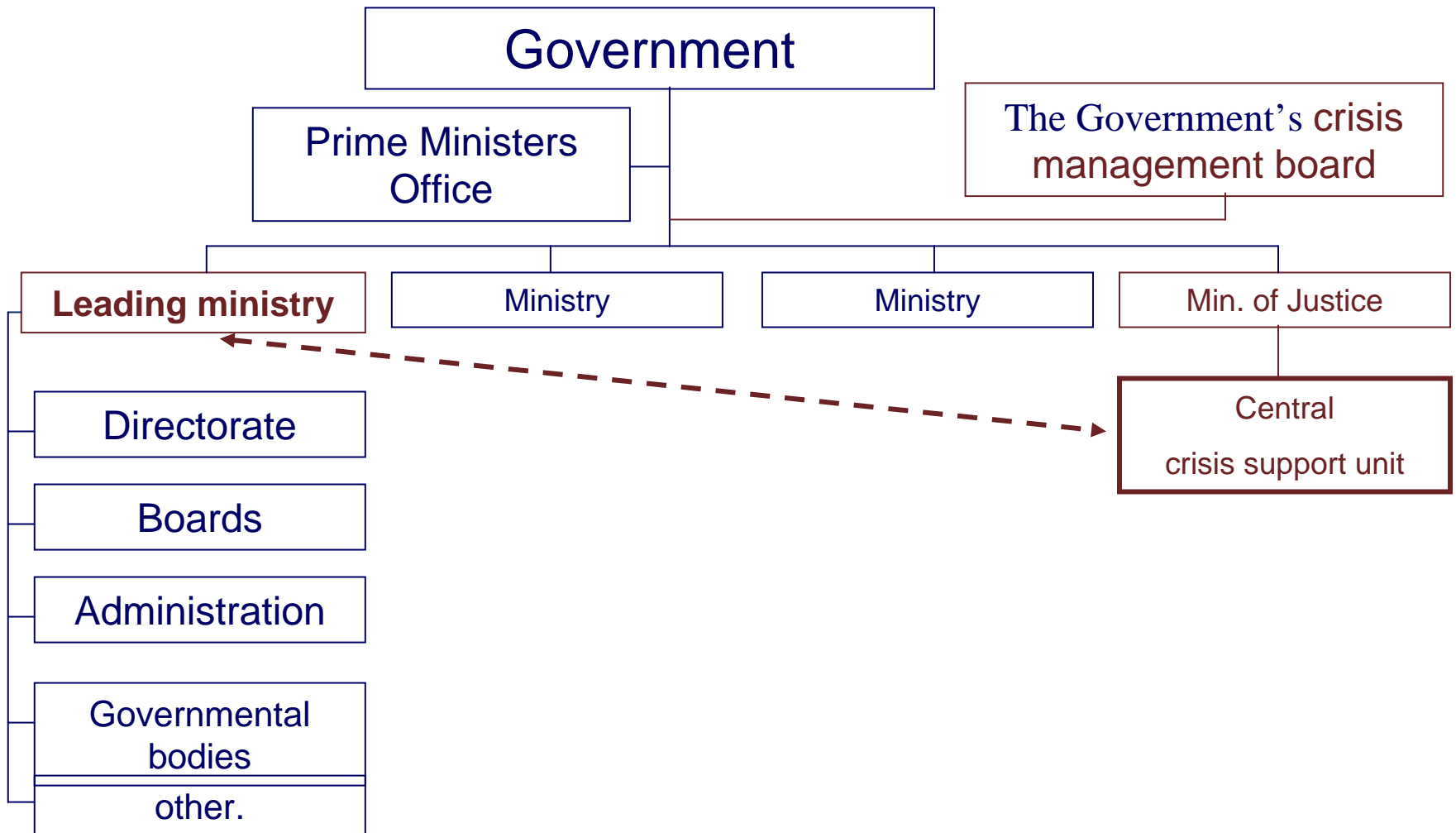
## Similarity

- The operational organisation during crises should be as close as possible to the day-to-day organisation

## Responsibility

- The body that is responsible for a health service under normal conditions is also responsible in case of extraordinary incidents

# Coordination



# Responsible bodies – health

- Ministry of Health
  - overall responsibility
- Directorate of Health and Social affairs
  - national authority for communicable diseases
- National Institute of Public Health
  - adviser and surveillance
- Municipalities – primary health care
  - local authority for communicable diseases
- Specialist health care
  - specialist treatment, laboratories

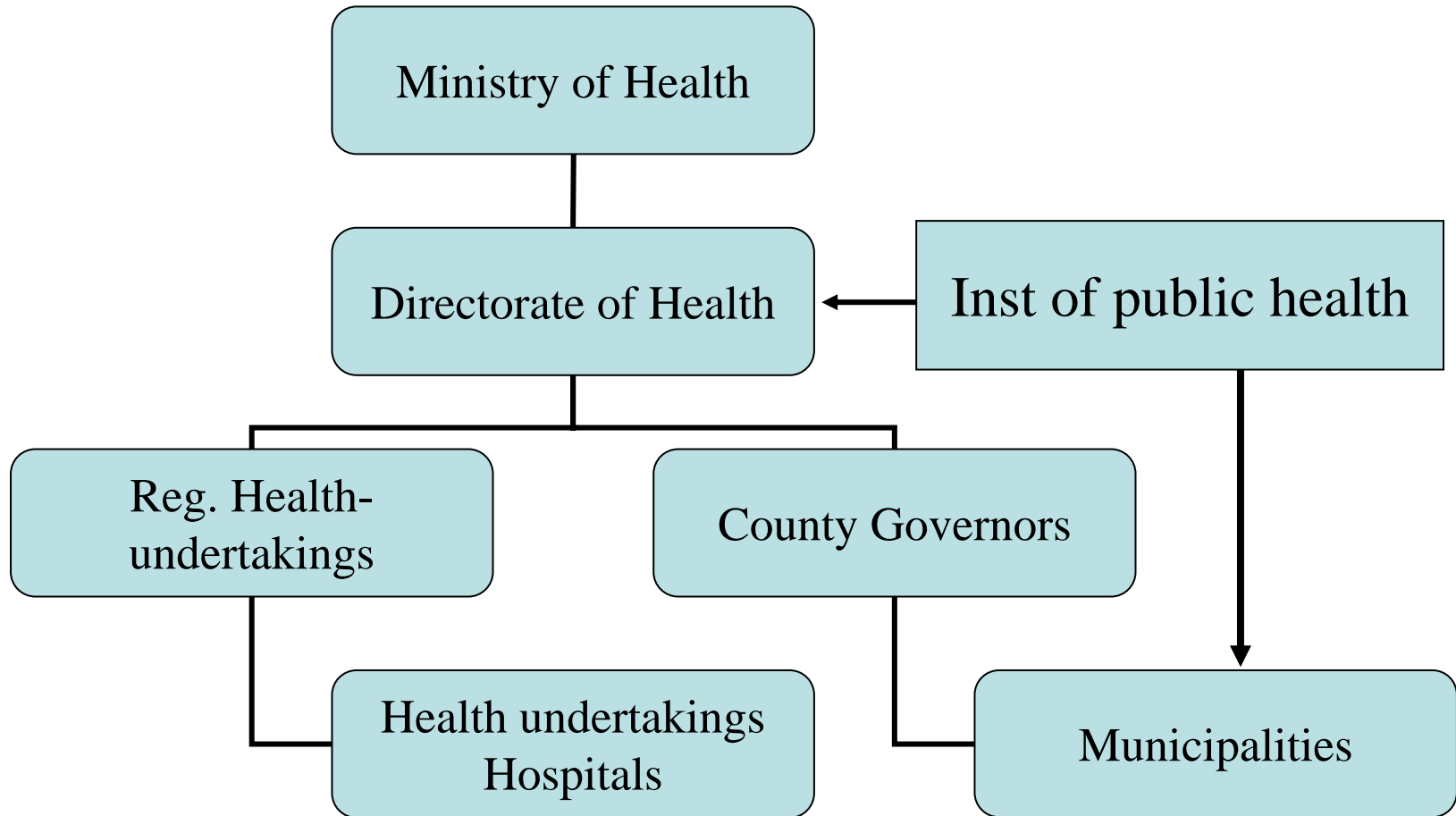
# Authorities

- Municipalities – primary health care
  - discover outbreak, contain disease, implement measures locally, based on advise from Institute of Public Health
- Directorate of Health and Social affairs
  - contain disease, implement measures on national level, based on advise from Institute of Public Health

# Directorate for Health and Social Affairs – its responsibility during crises

## **Stortingsmelding (Report to the Parliament) no 37 (2004-2005):**

The Directorate for Health and Social Affairs has an overall responsibility for national coordination of the health sector's preparedness. This includes the responsibility for preparatory planning as well as the operational coordination during a crisis.





# Collaborating governmental bodies

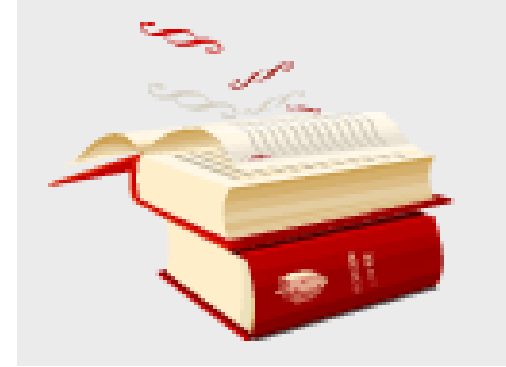
- Police
- Police intelligence
- Defence intelligence
- Defence competence bodies



# Health preparedness legislation

- Law on health and social preparedness
- Law on protection against infectious diseases
- Preparedness issues are also covered in other health legislation:
  - Specialist health care
  - Primary health care
  - Pharmaceutical

# Law on Infectious Diseases



- Obligatory emergency planning
- Empowering municipalities
  - prohibit social gathering, close airports, limit transportation and communication, isolation, compulsory vaccination etc
- The Directorate for Health and Social Affairs is given similar powers on a national level
- When?
  - "When necessary for the prevention of an infectious disease representing a public hazard or to counteract its propagation...."



# Focus on responsibilities, capabilities and handling

## Provisions regarding responsibilities

Intend to strengthen the ability for crisis management and prepare for an efficient, practical and coordinated handling of crises, catastrophes and war

## Provisions regarding capabilities and handling

Intend to prepare for the increased access to and coordination of necessary resources



# Strengthening crisis management ability

- Principle of responsibility
- Obligatory emergency planning
- Obligatory assistance



# Law on health and social preparedness

Under certain circumstances the national authorities are given the power to initiate or implement necessary measures



# Enabling provisions

- The starting point:  
***National authorities can impose measures upon counties or municipalities only subject to law***
- The enabling provisions take effect:
  - During war or when war is threatening
  - Upon crises or catastrophes during peace-time, according to decision by the King (or, temporarily, by the Ministry of Health and Care when life or health is at risk)
- The provisions empower the central health authorities to manage health services:
  - Requisitions
  - Command over personnel
  - Reallocation of responsibilities, and resources
  - Reorganisation of services

# National centre for NBC medicine

- Ullevål University Hospital
- Centre of competence
- Responsible for treatment of patients who have been exposed to for N-, B-or C-agents
- Advise health services and Authorities



# National B-relevant stockpiles

- **Antibiotics**
- **Antiviral drugs** (influenza pandemics)
- **Vaccines etc** (e g: smallpox)
- **Sanitation equipment**  
(16 units + 864 protective suits)



# B-preparedness

- Smallpox plan
- Pandemics plan

*Plans are nothing.  
Planning is everything.*

Eisenhower



# Civil-military cooperation

- Health Preparedness Board

Top leadership from

- Directorate for Health and Social Affairs, president and secretariat
- National Institute of Public Health
- Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority
- Armed Forces:
  - Medical Services
  - Logistics Services
  - National Joint Headquarter
- Representative from the Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning



# Questions

