

Legal regulation of administrative assistance by neighbourhood committees in public health emergencies

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Abstract: When public health emergencies occur, in order to quickly form a comprehensive and close prevention and control network, the community becomes a key link at the grassroots level. Community neighbourhood committee, as a grassroots self-governing organization, has dual attributes, and the formation of a good connection with the grassroots government focuses on the administrative attributes of the neighbourhood committee. The behaviour of the neighbourhood committee to perform administrative tasks at the request of administrative organs should be regarded as administrative assistance. In the past, neighbourhood committees played an important role in responding to public health emergencies, but some problems in the process of administrative assistance were also exposed, such as squeezing the exercise space of autonomous functions, implementing measures in violation of administrative principles and regulations, unclear relationship between administrative assistance and compulsory health isolation measures, inefficient exercise process and lack of supervision, and failure to get timely relief of damage consequences. These restrict the improvement of the efficiency of administrative assistance of the neighbourhood committee. To optimize the administrative assistance function of the neighbourhood committee in public health emergencies, we should respect the dual properties of the autonomy and administration of the neighbourhood committee, explore the role of the autonomous function in the administrative assistance, clarify the degree of assistance of the neighbourhood committee, standardize the process of administrative assistance, promote cooperation between the two parties, strengthen supervision to prevent dereliction of duty, and timely remedy illegal situations.

1. Introduction

The Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the CPC emphasised the need to maintain and enhance the social governance system based on collaboration, participation, and common interests. It also stressed the importance of making public security protection a fundamental project, improving the ability to issue early warnings and respond to emergencies, and enhancing the level of emergency management at the grassroots level. In previous public health emergencies, neighbourhood committees have made significant efforts to assist the government in carrying out

effective work. However, some problems have been revealed, such as failure to consider the dual functions of the neighbourhood committee during the assistance process, overstepping of administrative power, and incomplete procedures. These issues are not conducive to protecting citizens' rights or promoting the community's positive development. Defining the role of the neighbourhood committee in providing assistance and optimizing its administrative path holds both theoretical and practical significance.

2. The nature of the neighborhood committee administrative assistance in public health emergencies

The participation of the neighbourhood committee in the governance of public health emergencies plays an important role, and the study of the attributes and administrative assistance duty of the neighbourhood committee in public health emergencies is the basis for their improvement. China's current understanding of the functions exercised by the neighbourhood committee in public health emergencies and the nature of the administrative tasks they perform needs to be further deepened. Therefore, clarifying the basic theory of the neighbourhood committee's participation in the management of public health emergencies is particularly key to standardizing the administrative assistance behaviour of the neighbourhood committee.

The neighbourhood committee has both administrative and autonomous attributes. On the one hand, as the grassroots self-governing organization, the neighbourhood committee is an important carrier of the democratization and rule of law of the grassroots social governance in our country, and has the responsibility of "organizing residents to carry out self-government according to law". On the other hand, neighbourhood committees can carry out administrative acts based on the request of administrative organs or the authorization of laws and regulations, and assist urban grass-roots people's governments and their dispatched organs to perform administrative functions according to law.^[1] In response to public health emergencies, the neighbourhood committee and the industry committee and the property company have become the "troika" of grassroots community prevention and control, and the neighbourhood committee is mainly responsible for undertaking the instructions issued by the street headquarters, and its administrative attributes are more prominent in this special period.^[2] The author believes that the behaviour of the neighbourhood committee to accept the instructions in the process of responding to public health emergencies should be identified as administrative assistance.

Administrative assistance is a system in which an administrative body, when encountering obstacles that it cannot overcome in the process of performing its own duties, requests assistance from other administrative bodies that are not subordinate to it, and the requested authorities provide duty-related help to support the requesting authorities in realizing their administrative functions according to law.^[3] There are three reasons for identifying the assistance behaviour of the neighbourhood committees in this special period as administrative assistance: (1) The assistance procedure is similar. The procedure of administrative assistance is similar to that of the neighbourhood committees assisting administrative authorities, which requires the submission of assistance requests, the review of assistance requests, the making of assistance decisions, and the implementation of assistance decisions. (2) The assistance is obligatory. Both statutory assistance and discretionary assistance are obligatory, and both belong to mandatory administrative acts.^[4] Although the neighbourhood committee is given the opportunity to express their views following a request for "administrative assistance" from the administrative authorities, they do not have a choice as to whether or not to implement the request.^[5] (3) In this special period, the neighbourhood committees should be identified as special "administrative bodies". Such identification has practical possibilities and necessities. On the one hand, the community is severely administrative, and the neighbourhood

committees are regarded as an extension of administrative power. For example, in terms of personnel, the Organic Law of the Neighbourhood Committee of the People's Republic of China stipulates that the neighbourhood committees are elected by the residents' meetings, and the residents' meetings have the right to replace and re-elect their members. Many community residents' committees do go through community elections for their replacement, but the qualifications of candidates are determined by the government, which actually leads the community election, and the community election is basically a formality. Some local governments also stipulate that new members of the community residents' committees must go through the following procedures: urban recruitment (new graduates and laid-off workers) -- election -- collective study and decision of the street Party committee. Under such an election method and personnel system, members of the community residents' committees actually become cadres employed by the street, and the street office can replace members of the community residents' committees at will.^[6] During the epidemic, many areas in China have opened "grid" management, setting up grids under the community and bringing everyone into the management. Many party and government officials have gone down to the grassroots to become grid leaders, thus forming a four-layer grassroots management structure of "district -- street -- community -- grid", and the community residents' committees have actually become a link in the management structure of administrative organs.^[7] In addition, public health emergencies have the urgency of prevention and control, and timely control of emergency outbreaks is particularly crucial. Whether for emergency sites or infected or suspected infected cases, it is necessary to take compulsory measures to restrict personal freedom such as isolation and lockdown. In fact, in the process of COVID-19 prevention and control, lockdown and other compulsory measures are implemented by community organizations, and the work of the community has played a significant role in the control of the epidemic. If the community does not take appropriate health compulsory measures for citizens, it may cause a wider range of epidemics because the pathogen of infectious diseases is not blocked in time. Therefore, in emergency situations, the necessity of enforcing health compulsory isolation measures by the neighbourhood committee is beyond reproach.

3. Problems with the administrative assistance of the neighborhood committee in public health emergencies

When a public health emergency occurs, the neighbourhood committee, as the intermediary and bridge between the grass-roots government and the masses, plays a role in accurately implementing prevention and control orders. After the COVID-19 outbreak, grassroots self-governing organizations such as neighbourhood committees have become an important part of epidemic prevention and control due to their proximity to the masses and strong organizational strength, promoting the issuance of administrative orders and forming an integral pattern of epidemic prevention. On the other hand, in the process of epidemic prevention, especially in the implementation of administrative assistance, neighbourhood committees have also exposed problems such as squeezing autonomy space, taking measures that violate the principles and provisions of administrative law, having an unclear relationship between measures restricting personal freedom and administrative assistance, inefficient operation of administrative assistance, lack of supervision, and damage caused by assistance that has not been remedied in time.

3.1. Administrative assistance squeezes autonomy space

According to the Organic Law of Urban Residents' Committees, as an autonomous organization of grassroots masses, the daily affairs of the residents' committee are mainly autonomous tasks. However, during the outbreak of COVID-19, a large number of epidemic prevention tasks and measures in the community are assigned and guided by the government. The residents' committee has

no time to ask residents for opinions and suggestions, and rigidly performs assistance tasks. The autonomy of the residents' committee is difficult to highlight in the process of administrative assistance. This not only harms the autonomy of the people, but also makes the impression of community administrative more difficult to reverse. The residents' committee further deviates from the autonomous organization of grassroots masses, which is not conducive to the construction of a harmonious community.

The excessive administrative tasks lead to the lack of a basis for the autonomy to play. In the event of public health emergencies, it is important to allocate resources and personnel and assign tasks. However, in different fields and regions, the deployment of prevention and control fronts should be tailored to local conditions, so as to achieve accurate and efficient prevention and control. This not only requires the local government to grasp the local situation, but also requires the residents' committee and other social organizations to be flexible and effective in response to the local special situation. In practice, the community work access system for epidemic prevention and control is mostly a simple list of administrative assistance items by the neighbourhood committee, and most of them are principled norms.^[8] The administrative organs assign the neighbourhood committees to participate in the grassroots administrative work, and there is no effective constraint between the administrative organs and the neighbourhood committees. The neighbourhood committees undertake too broad administrative work arranged by the administrative organs, which is difficult to play their autonomous functions.^[9] They fail to accurately pay attention to the daily needs and interests of the community residents, and cannot solve the problems of the residents in a timely manner. This damages the residents' willingness to play a subjective role in the community prevention and control, and reduces their participation in the epidemic prevention work and their identity with the epidemic prevention work.

The neighbourhood committees execute administrative assistance tasks too rigidly, and the autonomous functions cannot be well played. The neighbourhood committees passively execute administrative assistance tasks, without considering the actual situation of the community. They implement "one-size-fits-all" prevention and control measures, ignoring the community services and the basic security of the residents' lives during the epidemic. For example, for the communities completely closed due to confirmed cases, the shortage of living materials is prone to occur. The community did not timely coordinate the business hours of stores providing daily necessities such as vegetable markets, supermarkets, convenience stores, and pharmacies, and did not do a good job in personnel guidance and risk control, which affected the residents' quarantine life.^[10] The neighbourhood committee fully complied with the instructions of the administrative organ and its dispatched agencies to perform administrative assistance, without considering the actual situation or fully absorbing the opinions of the residents. This not only did not make full use of the autonomous nature of the neighbourhood committee, but also went against the improvement of the epidemic prevention effect.

3.2. The measures taken violate the principles and provisions of administrative law

In administrative assistance, the helper must carry out the legal norms of the assisted.^[11] During the epidemic period, the tasks of the community include: forming a community epidemic prevention and control work team, investigating the basic living and travel conditions of the community residents, controlling the entry and exit of personnel and vehicles in the community, managing special key groups, and promoting epidemic prevention and control knowledge. However, in the process of performing these tasks, the implementation measures and methods of the neighbourhood committee in some regions violate the principles and provisions of administrative law, especially the proportion principle. For example, when collecting information, it is illegal to collect unnecessary information

and infringe upon the rights and freedoms of the residents; breaking into the residents' homes for investigation without consent, which is obviously in violation of the provisions of administrative law; The entry and exit of tenants and other personnel are prohibited, which restricts the freedom of residents in the form of law enforcement; the locks of suspected and confirmed cases are forcibly locked, etc. These measures go beyond the limits of prevention and control, infringe upon the rights of residents, aggravate their anxiety and panic, reduce their trust in the neighbourhood committees, hinder the development of the neighbourhood committees' work, and seriously endanger the personal safety and health of residents.

3.3. The relationship between compulsory health quarantine measures and administrative assistance is not clear

In order to do a good job in administrative assistance and achieve epidemic prevention effects, some communities arbitrarily decide to block off residential areas, block traffic arteries, and isolate suspected or confirmed cases. These arbitrarily decided compulsory health quarantine measures violate the provisions of laws and regulations.^[12] According to Article 41 of the Law on the Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases, only local people's governments at or above the county level can implement quarantine measures for personnel in specific places or specific areas within the places; Article 39 stipulates that medical institutions can require suspected cases to be isolated and treated in designated places before diagnosis. According to Article 49 and Article 50 of the Law on Emergency Response, only the people's governments that perform unified leadership duties can decide to block relevant sites and roads, restrict activities in relevant public places, and be executed by the public security organs. Similar provisions have also been made in the Regulations on Emergency Response to Public Health Emergencies. Therefore, the neighbourhood committees have no right to decide to block the community or isolate households separately, but can only assist medical institutions and people's governments in implementing isolation and dispersal measures, and conduct personnel tracking, close contact management, and patriotic health campaigns according to the instructions of medical institutions or people's governments. However, in the actual prevention and control work, the blocking and controlling behaviours of the neighbourhood committees have effectively prevented the spread of the epidemic to a certain extent. In public health emergencies, there is a conflict between the legal provisions and the practical needs of whether the behaviours implemented due to administrative assistance can be extended to compulsory health isolation measures.

3.4. Inefficient operation and lack of supervision of administrative assistance

In the process of administrative assistance by the neighbourhood committees, there are problems of inefficient operation and lack of supervision. In the process of epidemic prevention, there is no special information coordination mechanism among various departments, resulting in the same matters requiring multiple departments to fill in similar forms, some of which require professional skills and knowledge. The administrative department only assigns tasks but does not do a good job in the corresponding personnel allocation, which consumes a lot of time and energy of grassroots cadres and delays the implementation of the impending anti-epidemic work. These repeated inspections and form filling have not solved any problems reported by residents, nor have they met the urgent needs of residents, causing public dissatisfaction.^[13] In addition, in the implementation process, many communities and streets lack supervision and coordination, the nucleic acid detection points are not standardized, the on-site organization is chaotic, and have become the places where clusters of epidemics occur; for those who need to be isolated and dispersed, they are released to enter and exit at will, increasing the risk of virus spread.^[14] These problems constrain the improvement of

epidemic prevention efficiency and, to a certain extent, lead to the increase of risks in epidemic prevention and control.

3.5. The damage caused by assistance behavior is not remedied in time

Following the outbreak of the epidemic, the neighbourhood committees assisted the government in implementing prevention and control measures, achieving remarkable results. However, it should be noted that some committees executed their tasks beyond the necessary limits, seriously damaging the property and personal safety of residents. Unfortunately, most of the damage caused by these acts has not been remedied in a timely manner. The prompt correction of unlawful administrative actions is linked to the stability of administrative acts and the respect for the parties involved in administrative proceedings. In terms of administrative assistance, it affects the reputation of both parties involved in the administrative assistance process. The Interpretation of the Supreme People's Court on the Application of the Administrative Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China lists neighbourhood committees that perform administrative responsibilities as administrative defendants. Some administrative organs also provide a complaint window. However, due to the emergency nature of epidemic prevention and the public's lack of understanding of how to protect their rights, residents may find it difficult to obtain timely responses to their requests for redress amidst the myriad of prevention and control tasks. It is important to note that relying solely on administrative bodies and judicial systems may not be sufficient.

4. Optimal approach of neighborhood committee administrative assistance in public health emergencies

During the previous phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, some issues arose when neighbourhood committees assisted the government in epidemic prevention. These issues weakened the effectiveness of epidemic prevention and were not conducive to establishing a long-term response mechanism for public health emergencies. To optimise the administrative assistance function of neighbourhood committees in public health emergencies, it is important to respect the dual attributes of autonomy and administrative nature of neighbourhood committees. Exploring the role of autonomy in administrative assistance can promote accurate epidemic prevention. Secondly, it is necessary to clarify the extent of administrative assistance provided by neighbourhood committees and to appropriately relax compulsory isolation measures for hygiene, guaranteeing them with certain procedures. Lastly, it is important to optimize the process of running administrative assistance, prevent dereliction of duty, provide timely remedies in case of law violations, and ensure the effectiveness of neighbourhood committees in establishing a long-term response mechanism. Finally, the administrative assistance process should be optimised to prevent neglect of duty, provide timely remedies for law violations, and ensure that neighbourhood committees fully utilise their strengths in responding to public health emergencies. This will better safeguard the rights and interests of residents and improve the overall effectiveness of prevention and control.

4.1. Respect for the autonomy of neighborhood committees

To respect the autonomy of neighbourhood committees, it is important to provide them with the necessary resources and space to exercise their autonomy when providing administrative assistance during public health emergencies. Therefore, it is necessary to define the scope of administrative assistance to prevent neighbourhood committees from taking on excessive tasks. Additionally, the organizational structure of the neighbourhood committees should be strengthened to better handle emergencies and consider their dual attributes.

Defining the scope of administrative assistance is crucial in respecting residents' right to autonomy. A broad scope of administrative assistance can hinder the efficiency of such assistance and limit the autonomy of neighbourhood committees during public health emergencies. The administrative assistance scope can be defined by an access list of community work matters. This list should be used as a reference for administrative assistance tasks issued by administrative authorities and accepted by neighbourhood committees. The list should not only contain guiding principles for unpredictable matters to maintain legal compliance, but also include relevant laws and regulations such as the 'Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Law', 'Emergency Response Law', and 'Emergency Response Regulations for Public Health Emergencies'. Specific measures and provisions for matters outside the list of neighbourhood committees should be negotiated with administrative authorities, taking into account both sides' views and recommendations. This will ensure that the prevention and control measures are effective in preventing epidemics and protecting the interests of residents. For the collection of disease information, it is important to clearly define the means and content of collection, ensure the authenticity of the information, and provide adequate supervision. Matters not belonging to the other lists should be addressed by consulting with the administrative organ, and inappropriate instructions should be withdrawn or modified promptly to allow for the implementation of self-government functions by the neighbourhood committee.

To fully utilise the advantages of both administrative and autonomous attributes during public health emergencies, it is necessary to optimise and strengthen the organisational structure of neighbourhood committees. As the main person in charge of the neighbourhood committee, the head of the neighbourhood committee is responsible for coordinating and planning the emergency management of the neighbourhood, connecting and executing administrative assistance tasks requested by the administrative authorities, integrating tasks, streamlining the execution process, and retaining the basis for the implementation of the community's self-protection. A temporary autonomy group for public health emergencies is established within the organizational structure of the neighbourhood committee to respond to residents' suggestions and opinions on administrative assistance tasks, community self-protection, and other related matters. The group communicates feasible suggestions and opinions to the members of the neighbourhood committee responsible for implementation and other volunteer staff. Given the urgency of public health emergencies, the heavy burden of prevention and control tasks, and the limited number of neighbourhood committee members, residents can select a group through online voting. This group can communicate suggestions and feedback to residents and monitor their implementation. If constrained by staffing constraints or heavy workloads, this function should be delegated to neighbourhood committees in a timely manner. The neighbourhood committees should then pass on effective recommendations to ensure the implementation of the right to self-governance of the community's inhabitants. This will allow for timely listening to the opinions and suggestions of the inhabitants and the full utilization of the wisdom of the masses.

4.2. Clarifying the level of administrative assistance

In the event of a public health emergency, an appropriate broadening of the administrative measures that can be implemented by neighbourhood committees is conducive to better implementation of the tasks for which administrative assistance is requested by the administrative authorities. With regard to the administrative measures that can be implemented by neighbourhood committees on their own, they should comply with the requirements of administrative law, abide by the provisions and principles of administrative law, in particular the principle of proportionality, and take measures that are bounded by propriety and necessity. The principle of necessity should serve as an intrinsic constraint on the neighbourhood committee's implementation of the act, which requires

that the measures chosen by the neighbourhood committee must be the mildest and least intrusive to the residents' rights and interests among all other means that can also achieve the purpose.^[15] The principle of proportionality guides the neighbourhood committee in making the best choice when its task of performing administrative assistance in accordance with the law is in conflict with other legal interests. When different interests are in conflict with each other, the overall measurement of different legal interests can achieve the protection of the basic rights and interests of the residents, and at the same time effectively prevent and control the spread of the epidemic, so as to achieve the purpose of cutting off the means of transmission.^[16] Behaviours such as collecting information, persuading people to return, and not wearing masks are appropriate to adopt flexible means; while a combination of coercion and education should also be adhered to for violating quarantine requirements and obstructing lawful sealing and control.

4.3. Appropriate relaxation of the application of compulsory health isolation measures in the course of administrative assistance

In the event of a public health emergency, it is important to relax the administrative measures implemented by neighbourhood committees. However, it is important to note that neighbourhood committees are not administrative organs and therefore the implementation of their administrative measures must be regulated. When implementing administrative measures that do not restrict personal freedom, it is important to consider administrative laws and regulations to optimize the process of administrative assistance. The implementation of administrative compulsory measures, such as health compulsory isolation measures, which restrict personal freedom, has a significant impact on the safety, life, and health of residents. The process of implementation needs to be strictly regulated. In general, the neighbourhood committee alone cannot implement measures such as closing neighbourhoods, streets, or isolating certain households. According to the provisions of the Administrative Compulsory Law, such measures should be carried out by administrative or medical personnel under the leadership of the neighbourhood committee. During the implementation of the measures, it is necessary to have both administrative personnel and neighbourhood committee personnel present. The residents who are subject to the measures must be shown their law enforcement documents and be informed about the situation and the available avenues for redress. In case of an emergency, if the administrative personnel are unable to arrive on time, the neighbourhood committee may be required to temporarily restrict the movement of residents and immediately report to the competent authorities, requesting them to take over the implementation of the following administrative measures. If there is no major epidemic detected in the neighbourhood, or if there is a sudden outbreak of concentrated infections or a bad spread of the epidemic, sealing and controlling measures can be implemented first, with the implementation of the measures reserved for the residents for the sake of their health and safety. To implement sealing and control measures, the implementation process must be documented. Personnel and decision-makers must be notified upon completion of the implementation and the administrative organs must be promptly informed of the situation and measures taken. The administrative organs will evaluate and decide whether to continue the sealing and control. In case of a major fault, the party organizations should be promptly informed. Any offenses will be prosecuted according to the law.

4.4. Cooperation with and supervision of administrative assistance

In public health emergencies, proper co-operation between the administrative authorities and neighbourhood committees, as well as effective supervision, are crucial to controlling the situation. On the one hand, administrative authorities and neighbourhood committees can establish a mechanism for cooperation. The administrative organ can integrate the tasks and documents of each

department, reduce the number of departments and the situation of "a thousand threads above and a needle underneath", improve the docking efficiency, and avoid duplication of work. On the other hand, the process of administrative assistance provided by neighbourhood committees is monitored. In a public health emergency, neighbourhood committees act as a hub connecting residents and the government, and the tasks they perform come from the government and are directed to the public. Therefore, the main subjects of supervision are the government and the public. The way of supervision is the co-existence of external supervision and internal supervision. The external supervision is based on the public and the government. Internal supervision gives play to the pioneering and exemplary role of Communist Party members in the community's fight against the epidemic, and focuses on the Party's self-supervision and self-correction. The form of supervision manifests itself in the form of social supervision by putting forward opinions and suggestions, making complaints, which is combined with the party's self-talk, inspection form and the government's inspection as well as spot check, thus building a multi-directional and three-dimensional supervision mechanism. Moreover, flexibly using the online platform could help to urge the solution of the problem and improve the effectiveness of supervision, which improves the effectiveness of the neighbourhood committees in the implementation of administrative assistance and better serve the governance of the public health emergencies.

4.5. Improving legal redress mechanisms for assistance in violation of the law

Once the fact of damage has been created by the neighbourhood committee's act of assistance, the key is to remedy the damage in a timely manner. In public health emergencies, especially in the face of tensions, it is impossible to distinguish carefully between the damage caused by the neighbourhood committee's actions. However, in order to protect the interests of residents and stabilise their emotions, the neighbourhood committee should first be advanced, and if it is unable to fill the loss then it can apply to the administrative organ for special expenses. This not only achieves the purpose of timely remediation, but also complies with the Organic Law of Neighbourhood Committees and the institutional arrangements for administrative assistance. According to the Organic Law of the Neighbourhood Committees, the working funds and sources of the neighbourhood committees are allocated by the people's government. In addition, the damage caused by administrative assistance should depend on the implementation of administrative assistance, and both the administrative organ and the neighbourhood committee may become the subject of compensation. After the situation has been stabilised, a distinction should first be made as to whether the facts giving rise to the damage are the result of the implementation of administrative assistance. If the damage is caused by the neighbourhood committee's exercise of its autonomy, it should be borne by the neighbourhood committee. If the damage is caused by the execution of administrative assistance, it needs to be dealt with in different situations: if the damage is caused by the administrative assistance order of the administrative organ itself, it should be borne by the neighbourhood committee and the administrative organ jointly, with the administrative organ bearing the main responsibility; if the damage is caused by the neighbourhood committee exceeding the scope of its assistance, then the neighbourhood committee should bear the responsibility. Depending on the type of damage, the administrative organ decides to pay advances to the neighbourhood committee or to deduct part of the funds allocated to the neighbourhood committee after the public health emergency has been resolved.

5. Conclusions

When a public health emergency occurs, the government and the relevant health institutions are faced with enormous pressure and a heavy task of prevention and control. Because of the public

nature of public health emergencies, strict control at the grassroots level is especially crucial in the prevention and control pattern, and neighbourhood committees are the smallest cells in the urban epidemic prevention front. Neighbourhood committees have played an important role in the fight against the epidemic, but they have also revealed problems, especially in the implementation of administrative assistance tasks, do not make full use of the dual attributes of the neighbourhood committees. And there are also problems such as squeezing the space for the exercise of self-governing functions, implementing measures that violate the principles and provisions of administrative issuance, unclear relationship between administrative assistance and health compulsory isolation measures, inefficient exercise of the process and lack of supervision, and the consequences of the damage cannot be timely relief. To address these problems, there are several improving ways. First, neighbourhood committees should make good use of their autonomy functions in carrying out administrative tasks to achieve accurate prevention and control. Second, it should refer to administrative legal norms and principles, adhere to the assistance principle, regulate the implementation process, hence do a good job of cooperating with and supervising administrative assistance. Third it is important to improve the mechanism of remedies for violations of the law, and protect the interests of residents, so as to establish a long-term mechanism for neighbourhood committees to respond to public health emergencies.

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