



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

March 16, 2020

**DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

No. 2020 - 0108-A

- TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO; EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS AND NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA AND INSTITUTES; PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION; DIRECTORS OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**
- SUBJECT: Amendment to Department Memorandum 2020-0108 entitled “Guidelines for Management of Patients with Possible and Confirmed COVID-19”**

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The Department Memorandum 2020-0108 entitled “Guidelines for the Management of Patients with Possible and Confirmed COVID-19” is hereby amended to reflect the following change:

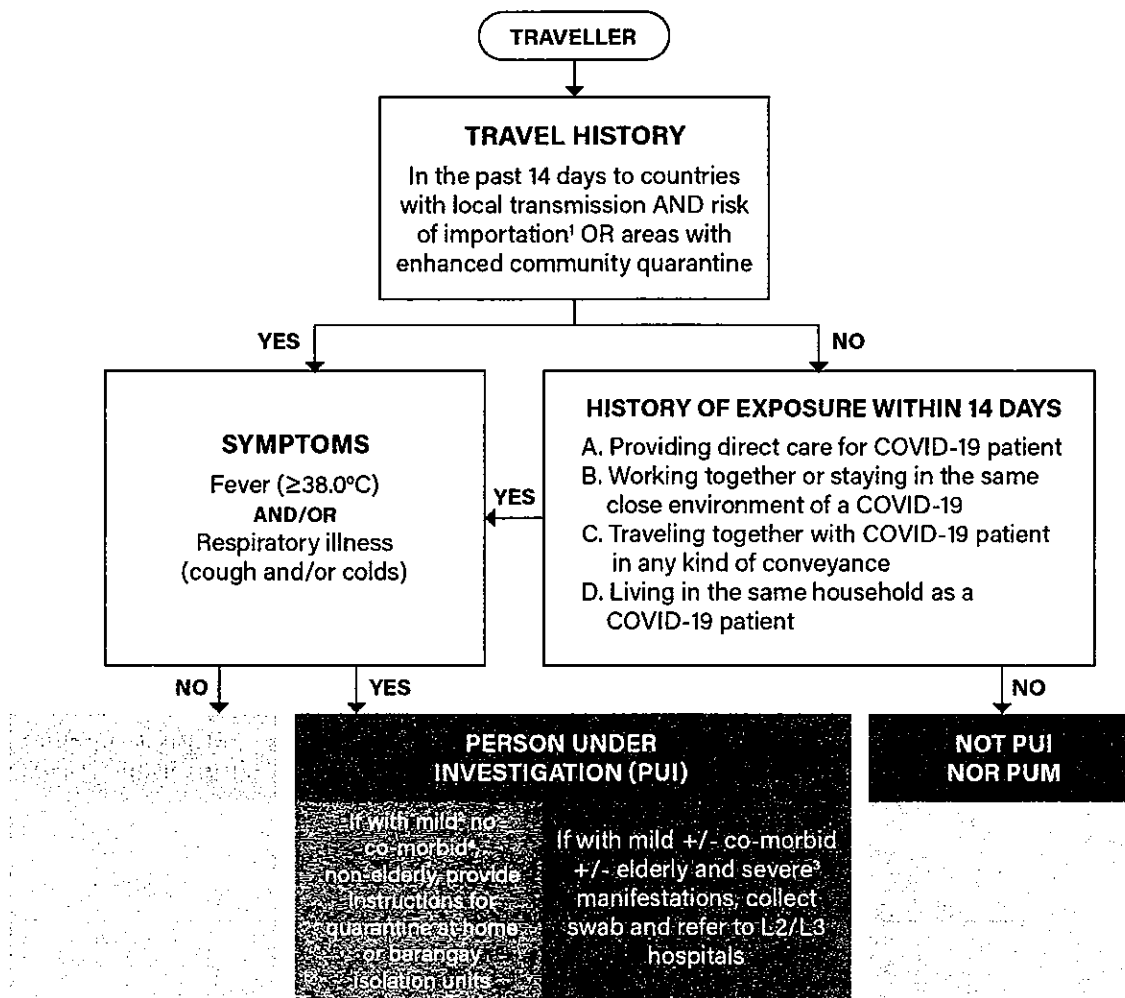
- I.** To revise Section II.A.2.a.iv. on Roles and Responsibilities of BOQ at Ports of Entry to read:
- “iv. Assess PUI for severity of symptoms, age, and co-morbidities.
1. For PUIs with mild symptoms, no co-morbidities and/or non-elderly, refer to **Section C.2.**
  2. For PUIs who are **elderly and/or with co-morbidities, and manifesting symptoms:**
    - a. Fill Case Investigation Form and submit to RITM.
    - b. Transport PUI to Level 2/3 hospital.”
- II.** To revise the Section II.A.2.b.i.4. on Roles and Responsibilities of BOQ at Ports of Entry on reporting to read:
- “4. Provide the list of PUIs and PUMs to DOH COVID-19 EOC by 6AM and 6PM everyday”
- III.** To change the **Section II.C.2.a.i.** on Management of PUIs and Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 to read:
- “i. If PUI has mild symptoms with no comorbidity, and/or non-elderly, advise them to be sent home for strict self-isolation and close monitoring by local health authorities for 14 days. **There is no need to collect specimens and have them tested.**”

IV. To revise the definition of PUI and PUM in ports of entry as reflected in the new Annex A as shown below:

**ALGORITHM FOR TRIAGE OF PATIENTS WITH POSSIBLE COVID-19 INFECTION IN PORTS OF ENTRY**

FOR USE BY QUARANTINE OFFICERS

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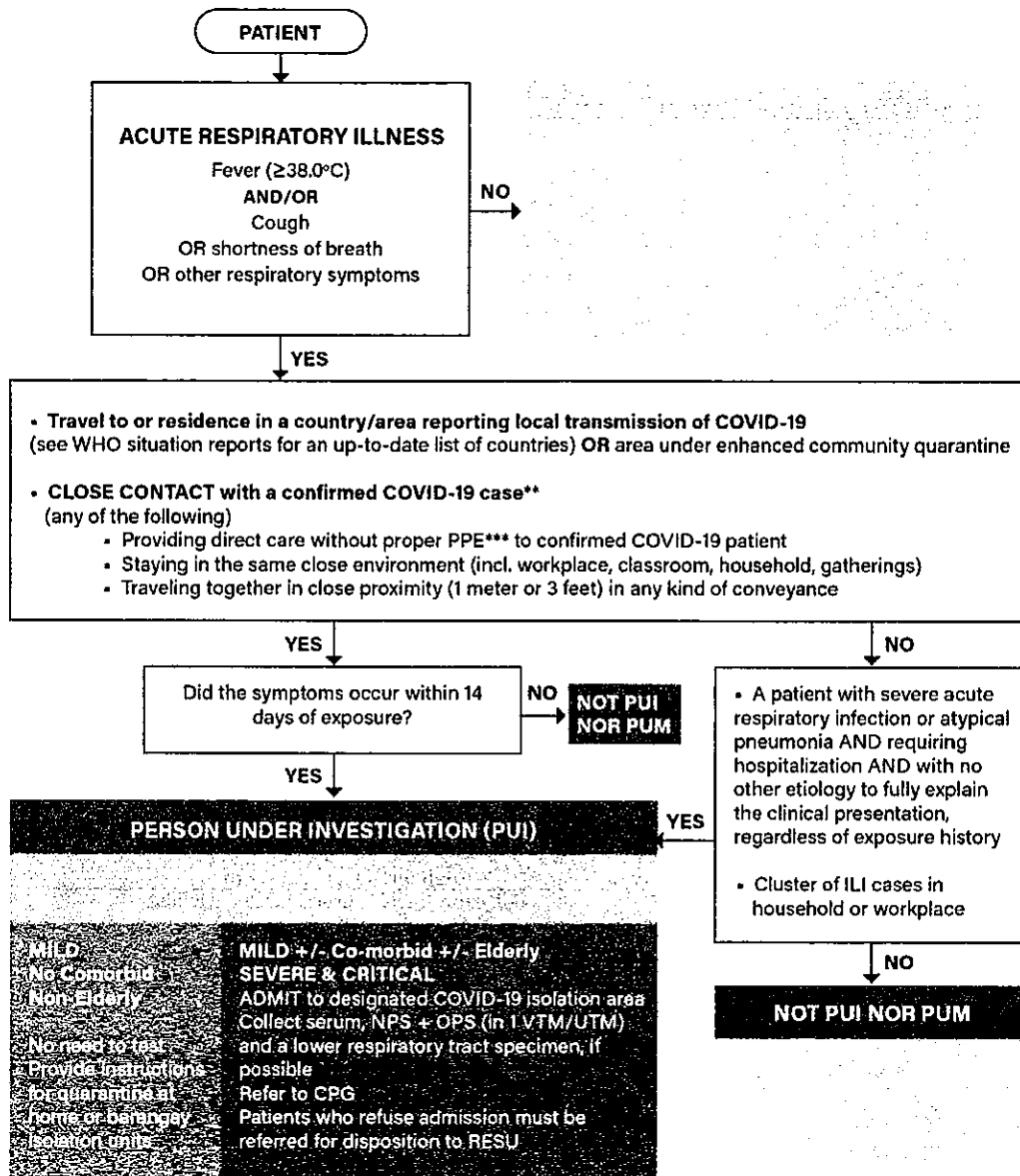
1 To be evaluated weekly by the ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center. Separate advisory will be issued every Wednesday to determine countries to be included.  
 2 Mild manifestations include fever, dry cough, fatigue, sputum production, sore throat, headache, myalgia or arthralgia, chills, nausea or vomiting, nasal congestion, diarrhea  
 3 Severe manifestations include difficulty of breathing and/or respiratory rate  $\geq 30$ /minute  
 4 Persons with underlying medical problems, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, chronic lung disease, and immunosuppression

- V. To revise the definition of PUI and PUM in healthcare facilities as reflected in the new Annex E as shown below:

**ALGORITHM FOR TRIAGE OF PATIENTS WITH POSSIBLE COVID-19 INFECTION IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES**

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**HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

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This algorithm is consistent with the WHO surveillance definition of COVID-19 as of 27 February 2020 and may change depending on evolving information on transmission patterns and pathogenicity of the virus.

**\*\*CONFIRMED case** – A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms

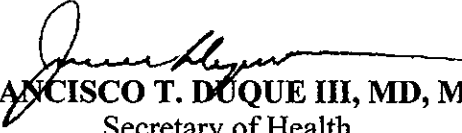
**\*\*\* PROPER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

1. Well-fitting N95 mask (fit-tested)
2. Eye protection (goggles or face shield)
3. Impermeable gown
4. Surgical gloves

The reader is referred to the Guidelines on Infection Control for COVID-19.

COVID-19 – CoronaVirus Disease 2019; PPE – personal protective equipment; RESU – Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit; CIF – Case Investigation Form; NPS – Nasopharyngeal swab; OPS – oropharyngeal swab; VTM – viral transport medium; UTM – universal transport medium

As thus amended, all other provisions stipulated under Department Memorandum No. 2020-0108 dated March 11, 2020 not affected by this Order shall remain in full force and in effect.

  
**FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc**  
Secretary of Health