



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

14 March 2020

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2020 - 0122

TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS, SERVICES AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO; EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS AND NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL; DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PHILIPPINES INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE; 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: Interim Guidelines on Community Quarantine Under Code Red Level 2 of Harmonized Code Alert Systems for COVID-19

I. BACKGROUND

After a cluster of pneumonia cases of unknown etiology was reported in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China last December 31, 2019, Chinese health authorities preliminarily identified the cause of this viral pneumonia as a new or novel type of coronavirus.

With an increasing number of cases spreading to various territories and confirmed human-to-human transmission, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) last January 30, 2020.

The Department of Health (DOH) hereby issues these interim guidelines on community quarantine under Code Red Level 2 of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) health emergency.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. The Local Government Units (LGUs) shall abide by the directives of the Department of Health and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in the imposition of general and enhanced community transmission in their respective jurisdictions.
- B. General Community Quarantine is where the movement of people is limited to accessing basic necessities. Uniformed personnel and quarantine officers shall be present at border patrol.

- C. Enhanced Community Quarantine is where strict home quarantine is implemented
- D. in all households. Transportation shall be suspended while provision for food and essential health services shall be regulated. Heightened presence of uniformed personnel to enforce quarantine procedures will be implemented as well.

III. IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES

A. Restriction of Non-Essential Entry under General Community Quarantine

- 1. High risk persons are restricted to enter the contained area. These include those 60 years old and above, immunocompromised, those with preexisting medical conditions, and pregnant women.

B. Exemption on the Restriction of Entry under General Community Quarantine

- 1. The following may enter the contained area: health workers, authorized government officials, those traveling for medical or humanitarian reasons, persons transiting to airport for travel boards, persons providing basic services and public utilities, and essential skeletal workforce.
- 2. All persons entering the contained community must be checked for signs and symptoms at entry checkpoints.

C. Exemption of Non-Essential Exit under General Community Quarantine

- 1. The following groups may exit from the contained area: health workers, authorized government officials, those traveling for medical or humanitarian reasons, persons transiting to the airport for travel boards, persons providing basic services and public utilities, and essential skeletal workforce.
- 2. All persons leaving the contained community must be checked for signs and symptoms at exit checkpoint where
 - a. appropriate certification will be issued by the competent health authorities;
 - b. health authorities endorses exiting person to recipient LGU;
 - c. LGUs are required to monitor implementation of home-based quarantine.
- 3. All persons leaving the contained community without any signs and symptoms shall undergo self-isolation (home quarantine) for fourteen (14) days and shall be designated as Persons Under Monitoring (PUM);
- 4. All persons leaving the contained community with signs and symptoms shall:
 - a. Self-isolate for 14 days if with mild symptoms (e.g. fever, dry cough, fatigue, sputum production, sore throat, headache, myalgia or arthralgia, chills, nausea or vomiting, nasal congestion, diarrhea);
 - b. Consult any Level 2 or Level 3 hospital, preferably those who accept COVID-19 patients, if:
 - i. Elderly and/or with co-morbidities, with mild symptoms,
 - ii. With severe manifestations (e.g. difficulty of breathing and/or respiratory rate ≥ 30 /minute).
 - c. Be designated as Persons Under Investigation (PUI)

D. Restriction of Entry and Movement under Enhanced Community Quarantine


- 1. All persons are restricted from entering the contained area.
- 2. Uniformed personnel are mandated to strictly enforce the prevention of entry into the contained area.
- 3. All persons inside the contained area are required to observe strict home quarantine wherein they are not allowed to exit the premises of their home unless to acquire basic necessities such as food or to seek medical consultation.

4. All forms of mass transportation such as trains and buses shall cease from operating inside the quarantined area.

E. Restriction of Exit under Enhanced Community Quarantine

1. All persons are restricted from exiting the contained area, except those who reside outside the area of enhanced community quarantine who are stranded in transit.
2. Uniformed personnel are mandated to strictly prohibit all persons from exiting the contained area.

For strict compliance of all concerned.


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