



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

March 7, 2020

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR**

No. 2020- 0107

**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 OTHERS CONCERNED**


**SUBJECT: Public Advisory No. 13 - Updated Guidelines for Management and Referral of Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Under Code Red**

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In view of the confirmation of local transmission of COVID-19, the Department of Health issues and reiterates the following directives and guidelines for intensified response activities under Code Red:

1. All Municipal and City Health Offices are directed to triage and manage all patients suspected to have COVID-19 according to previously issued guidelines, and coordinate with their respective Barangay Emergency Health Response Teams for monitoring those requiring home quarantine.
2. All Level 2 and 3 hospitals are directed to attend to all patients suspected to have the COVID-19 and those confirmed COVID-19 with mild symptoms.
3. Only confirmed COVID-19 patients that are severe and critical shall be referred to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, San Lazaro Hospital, and Lung Center of the Philippines.
4. All Level 2 and 3 hospitals are encouraged to designate a triage area in their Emergency rooms for screening suspected COVID-19.
5. All Level 2 and 3 hospitals are reminded to not refuse patients suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19. To reiterate the PHIC Advisory No. 2020-012, refusal to provide care to said patients shall be considered a violation of the signed Performance Commitment and shall be dealt with by the Corporation accordingly.

The Directors of the Centers for Health Development are directed to disseminate this advisory to all concerned for their strict compliance.

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