



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

February 5, 2020

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2020 - 0041

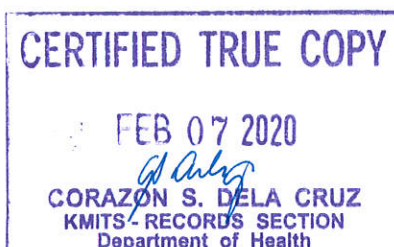
TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO; EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS, NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA AND INSTITUTES; PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION; DIRECTORS OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Reiteration of the Interim Guidelines on 2019 Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease (2019-nCoV ARD) Response in Residential Communities

The Department of Health reiterates Department Memorandum No. 2020-0059 entitled “Interim Guidelines on 2019 Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease (2019-nCoV ARD) Response in Residential Communities.”

This is to provide guidance for all residential communities (e.g. subdivisions, condominiums, etc.) to take the necessary steps to prevent, contain, and mitigate the possible transmission of 2019-nCoV ARD in communities.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.




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



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

February 3, 2020

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2020 - 0059

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: Interim Guidelines for 2019 Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease (2019-nCoV ARD) Response in Residential Communities

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 (2019-nCoV).

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 interim guidelines for residential communities (e.g. subdivisions, condominiums) on the necessary precautions to prevent, contain, and mitigate the possible transmission of 2019-nCoV ARD in communities.

II. GUIDELINES

A. General Preventive Measures

- 1. Personal protection and hygiene:** The practice of personal cleanliness and hygiene at all times of every individual in the community is vital

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

FEB 06 2020

MARIA CRISTINA P. DIVERA
KMIS - RECORDS SECTION
Department of Health

to containing the spread of diseases and protecting the whole community. The following practices should be observed to halt the spread of 2019-nCoV ARD from infected individuals:

a) **Respiratory etiquette:**

- (1) Cough and sneeze into tissue or into shirt sleeve if tissue is not available. Dispose used tissues properly and disinfect hands immediately after a cough or sneeze. See *Annex A*.
- (2) Avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth to help slow the spread of the virus.
- (3) The use face masks, which provides a physical barrier from the 2019-nCoV ARD viruses by blocking large-particle respiratory droplets propelled by coughing or sneezing, is ONLY recommended for:
 - (a) Persons caring for the sick
 - (b) Healthcare workers attending to patients with respiratory infection/symptoms (cough, colds)
 - (c) Persons with respiratory infection/symptomsSee *Annex B* for the proper wearing of face mask.
- (4) People in good health do NOT need to use face masks.

b) **Hand hygiene:**

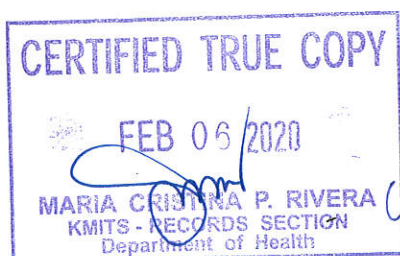
- (1) Perform regular and thorough handwashing with soap and water. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing at least 60% ethanol or isopropanol when soap and water are not available. See *Annex C*.

2. **Social distancing measures:**

- a) Whenever possible, keep a distance of at least 3 feet or 1 meter away from other people to reduce the possibility of person-to-person transmission. This distance should be observed even as to apparently healthy persons without symptoms.
- b) Offer telecommuting and replace in-person meetings in the workplace with video or telephone conferences.
- c) Postpone, or cancel mass gatherings until further advise by the DOH

3. **Environmental measures:**

- a) Clean frequently-touched surfaces and objects, including tables, doorknobs, toys, desks, and computer keyboards
- b) Maintaining the environment clean, especially common-use areas and those with touchpoints such as elevators, railings, staircases, light switches, and the like.
- c) Make dispensers with alcohol-based hand rub available in public areas.



4. Food Safety measures:

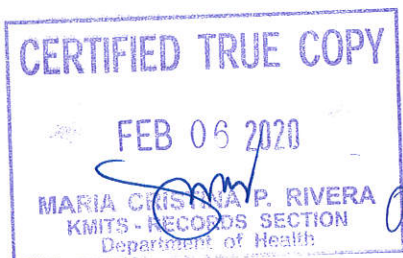
- a) Avoid consumption of raw or undercooked animal products. Handle raw meat, milk or animal organs with care, to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked food, as per good food safety practices.
- b) When visiting live animal markets, wet markets or animal product markets
 - (1) Practice general hygiene measures, including regular hand washing with soap and potable water after touching animals and animal products
 - (2) Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with hands
 - (3) Avoid contact with (a) sick animals or spoiled animal products (b) other animals possibly living in the market (e.g., stray cats and dogs, rodents, birds, bats) and (c) potentially contaminated animal waste or fluids on the soil or structures of shops and market facilities
- c) Do not slaughter sick animals for consumption. Bury or destroy dead animals and avoid contact with their body fluids without protective clothes.

B. Notification and Reporting of Person Exhibiting Signs and Symptoms of 2019-nCoV ARD or With Travel History to Affected Areas or With History of Exposure

5. Any individual who exhibits symptoms consistent with the 2019-nCoV ARD and has history of travel to affected areas or close contact with a caregiver of patient under investigation (PUI) for or with a confirmed case of 2019-nCoV ARD, must immediately notify the Barangay Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT).
6. If the individual resides in a subdivision or condominium, he/she must likewise inform the Homeowners Association or Administration Office, which in turn must notify the BHERT.
7. The BHERT officer shall report the event of a possible case of 2019-nCoV ARD to the Municipal Health Officer (MHO) or City Health Officer (CHO) for verification and initial investigation. The MHO/CHO shall then report to the Regional Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (RESU) using the Event-Based Surveillance System (ESR) system of the Epidemiology Bureau (EB) of DOH.
8. All members of BHERT shall perform their functions based on the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular No. 2020-018: Guide to Action Against "Coronavirus". See *Annex C*.

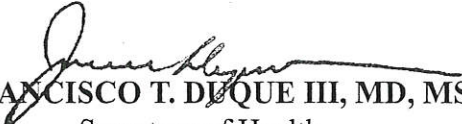
B. Sources of 2019-nCoV Information and Advisories

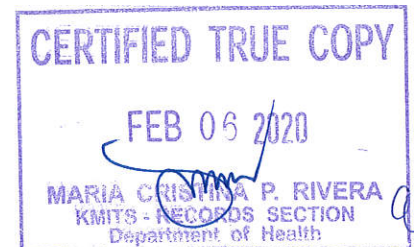
1. Everyone is advised to refrain from sharing unverified reports and/or false news to avoid undue stress and worry due to misinformation.



2. For announcements and public advisories, you may visit the following official DOH channels:
 - Website: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV>
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov/>
 - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DOHgov>
3. DOH health promotion materials (e.g. infographics, social media cards among others) may be used and reproduced free of charge to keep communities informed.

For strict compliance of all concerned.


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



DOH HEALTH ADVISORY

TAMANG PAG UBO

Ugaliin ang mga sumusunod:

- 

LAGING MAGDALA NG PANYO O TISSUE
- 

TAKPAN ANG BUONG ILONG AT BIBIG GAMIT ANG PANYO/ TISSUE
- 

MAARING GAMITIN ANG MANGGAS O LOOB NG SIKO
- 

LUMAYO SA MGA TAO KUNG BABAHING O UUBO
- 

HUWAG DUMURA KUNG SAAN-SAAN
- 

ITAPON ANG NAGAMIT NA TISSUE SA BASURAHAN
- 

LAGING MAGHUGAS NG KAMAY
- 

O GUMAMIT NG HAND SANITIZER O ALCOHOL



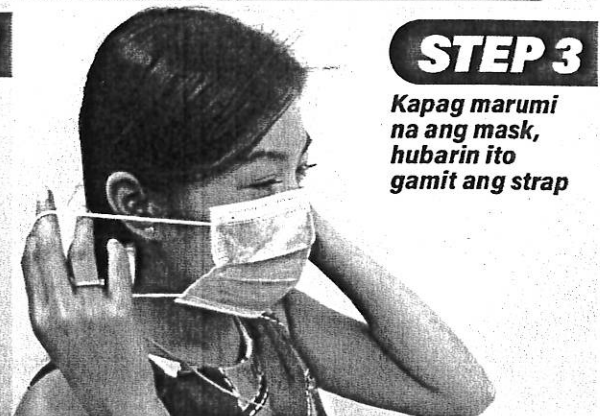
OfficialDOHgov
doh.gov.ph



8-711-1001
8-711-1002

Annex B. Proper Wearing of Face Mask

TAMANG PAGSUOT NG SURGICAL MASK



OfficialDOHgov
doh.gov.ph



8-711-1001
8-711-1002

Annex C. Proper Hand Hygiene

2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS Acute Respiratory Disease (2019-nCoV ARD)

HEALTH ADVISORY



Ang wasto at regular na paghuhugas ng kamay ay mabisang paraan upang makaiwas sa mga sakit. Ito ay makatutulong sa pagpigil ng pagkalat ng virus na nagdudulot ng sakit.

www.doh.gov.ph

OfficialDOHgov

8711-1001 8711-1002

TAMANG PARAAN NG PAGHUHUGAS NG KAMAY



Basain ng tubig ang mga kamay at sabunin.



Sabunin ang mga palad.



Sabunin ang likod ng mga kamay.



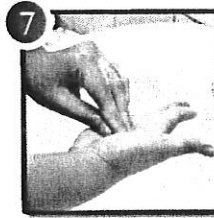
Kuskusin ang mga pagitan ng daliri.



Kuskusin ang mga kuko.



Kuskusin ang pagitan ng mga hinalaki.



Kuskusin ng paikot ang mga dulo ng mga daliri sa magkabilang palad.



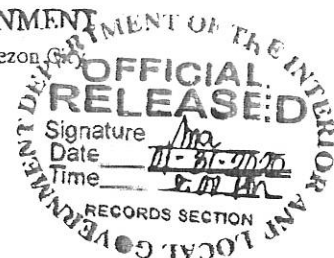
Banlawang mabuti sa malinis na tubig at patuyuin ang mga kamay gamit ang single-use towel.

Makipag-ugnayan sa pinakamalapit na health facility para sa karagdagang impormasyon.





Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, West Triangle, Quezon City
http://www.dilg.gov.ph



GUIDES TO ACTION AGAINST "CORONAVIRUS"

Memorandum Circular No. 2020-018

31 JAN 2020

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Pursuant to Section 15, Article 2 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution and Section 16, the General Welfare Clause, of the Local Government Code, local government units are charged with the promotion of health and safety within their jurisdictions. As such they are to take lead in the prevention and control of coronavirus at the local level.
- 1.2 In response to the growing concern over the outbreak of coronavirus, the Philippines is now one among the countries with probable coronavirus suspects. Unless properly addressed, this phenomenon may create a negative impact on business productivity, tourism, and mobility of citizens, not to mention deaths. Moreover, lack of information or misinformation on coronavirus engenders paranoia where Coronavirus suspects, their next of kin, neighbourhood or community may be ostracized by the public at large. In extreme situations, lack of information or misinformation on Coronavirus may even lead to social unrest in a community.

2.0 Purpose

- 2.1 This Circular aims to enjoin all local government units to effectively intensify information education campaign against Coronavirus and implement programs, projects and services that will promote the health and well-being of every Filipino.

3.0 Scope/Coverage

- 3.1 All Provincial Governors, City Mayors, Municipal Mayors, DILG Regional Directors, and all others concerned

4.0 Policy Content and Guidelines

- 4.1 All Local Chief Executives shall assume and perform roles as:

4.1.1 Anti-Coronavirus Information Manager:

- 4.1.1.1 Consult Local Health Offices on the guidelines and protocol relative to the safety measures, prevention and control of the Coronavirus in their respective localities;
- 4.1.1.2 Disseminate information materials i.e., flyers, brochures, fosters, billboards against Coronavirus;
- 4.1.1.3 Tap the local media in communication what Coronavirus is, what Coronavirus is not, and the measures to prevent Coronavirus;
- 4.1.1.4 Conduct public dialogues with health authorities, police authorities, business community, civil society, and the general public on Coronavirus prevention and control; and

- 4.1.1.5 Dispel rumors and calm down the people when hysteria and panic grip the community because of false and misleading information about Coronavirus.

4.1.2 Local Crisis Manager:

- 4.1.2.1 Organize Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams (BHERTs) to help manage coronavirus suspects and their contacts;
- 4.1.2.2 Provide, when necessary, protective gadgets such as masks, goggles, gowns, gloves etc., to each member of the BHERT and other local health personnel;
- 4.1.2.3 In coordination with health and police authorities, cause the referral and transport of a Coronavirus suspect to the DOH-designated coronavirus-referral center or hospital;
- 4.1.2.4 In coordination with health and police authorities, cause the establishments of check points, as need arises;
- 4.1.2.5 In coordination with health and police, see the protection from unnecessary harm of a coronavirus suspect, the next of kin and contact(s); and
- 4.1.2.6 As Head of the Local Price Coordinating Council, monitor prices of medicines and preventive gadgets, and file charges against hoarding or overpricing.

4.1.3 Environmental Health Manager:

- 4.1.3.1 Ensure that garbage is properly disposed;
- 4.1.3.2 Ensure that public places and areas such as offices, malls, theaters, enclosed recreational areas, restaurants, public markets, schools, churches, public toilets, etc., are disinfected and maintained of their cleanliness;
- 4.1.3.3 Esteros and canals are cleaned regularly; and
- 4.1.3.4 An ordinance on health, sanitation and cleanliness is enacted and/or enforced.

4.2 Specific Responsibilities of Local Chief Executives:

4.2.1 For the Punong Barangays

4.2.1.1 On Containment and Control

- 4.2.1.1.1 Receive the Bureau of Immigration record and from other sources, if available, on persons arriving in the barangay from a coronavirus-affected country who are residents of the barangay. In the absence of such records, monitor arrivals and provide the City or Municipal Mayor with a report on such arrivals and measures and actions on the required 14-day home confinement;

- 4.2.1.1.2 Mobilize the BHERTs in the fight of against coronavirus;
 - 4.2.1.1.3 In coordination with duly designated local authorities , enforce the 14-day confinement of arriving persons from a coronavirus-affected country;
 - 4.2.1.1.4 Extend appropriate assistance and support to those in home confinement, depending on the latter's capability and actual needs;
 - 4.2.1.1.5 Refer, and transport, to the DOH-designated coronavirus center or hospital a coronavirus suspect. In case of inability due to lack of ambulance and protective gadgets, refer the coronavirus suspect to a city or municipal health authorities; and
 - 4.2.1.1.6 Monitor the BHERTs in the performance of their tasks.
- 4.2.2.2 On Prevention
- 4.2.2.2.1 In coordination with city or municipal health authorities, conduct a barangay-wide information campaign on coronavirus prevention, containment and control;
 - 4.2.2.2.2 Set-up a Barangay Information or Call Center to facilitate the reporting of coronavirus suspects and contacts and the dissemination of coronavirus-related information;
 - 4.2.2.2.3 In coordination with city or municipal health authorities, conduct a barangay-wide clean-up campaign;
 - 4.2.2.2.4 Organize a minimum of one (1) BHERT for every 5,000, population. Each BHERT is composed of an Executive Officer, a Barangay Tanod and two (2) Barangay Health Workers, one (1) of whom is preferably a nurse or midwife, and where all are appointed by the Punong Barangay.

The BHERT shall perform the following functions:

- a. With or without the list of arrivals from the Mayor supposed to be given by the Bureau of Immigration (BI), conduct visits in the home of every arriving person from a coronavirus affected country;
- b. Immediately list down the person(s) the arriving residents(s) came in contact with prior to his/her arrival in his/her residence;
- c. Require the arriving residents(s) to check and record temperature daily, in the morning and in the afternoon, for the duration of the 14-day home confinement period. Advise the arriving resident(s) to watch out for any other symptoms of Coronavirus like cough, difficulty in breathing or shortness of breath;

- d. Check on the condition of the arriving resident(s) daily from a distance of more than one (1) meter. In checking, always wear N95 or surgical mask;
- e. If symptoms are observed, immediately isolate and confine the arriving resident, now a coronavirus suspect, to a room away from the members of the household prior to his immediate transport to a DOH-designated coronavirus-referral center or hospital for further examination and treatment. Require the coronavirus suspect to wear N95 or surgical mask. Place the rest of the household also under 14-day home confinement. Repeat the process for them, including contact tracing. If no signs manifest, report to the City or Municipal Health officer for lifting of home confinement.
- f. If no symptoms are observed after the 14-day home confinement, report the matter to the City or Municipal Health Officer for lifting of home confinement; and
- g. Report to the Punong Barangay on measures or actions taken per arriving resident.

4.2.2 For the City (Highly Urbanized, Independent Component or Component) or Municipal Mayor

4.2.2.1 On Containment and Control

- 4.2.2.1.1 Receive copy of record directly from the BI record and other sources on persons arriving in the city or municipality from a coronavirus-affected country and send it immediately to the Punong Barangay for monitoring and surveillance. In the absence of such records, generate information on arrivals from a coronavirus-affected country through the Punong Barangays, City or Municipal or Barangay Health Workers or through other sources, e.g., Barangay Intelligence Network;
- 4.2.2.1.2 Monitor the measures and actions taken by the Punong Barangays and the BHERTs in the prevention, containment and control of coronavirus;
- 4.2.2.1.3 Provide logistical assistance to the BHERTs in carrying out their tasks;
- 4.2.2.1.4 Direct the City or Municipal Health Office to supervise the BHERTs and submit report(s) to the Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit on the outcome of home confinement;
- 4.2.2.1.5 Refer, and transport, a coronavirus suspect to the DOH-designated coronavirus referral center or hospital;

4.2.2.1.6 Order the Philippine National Police or the Punong Barangay to effect the compulsory home confinement of persons arriving from a coronavirus-affected country who violate home confinement to complete the 14-day prescribed period, in case the Punong Barangay or the BHERT fails to impose the 14-day home confinement; and

4.2.2.1.7 Extend appropriate assistance and support to those in home confinement, depending on the latter's capability and actual needs.

4.2.2.2 On Prevention

4.2.2.2.1 In coordination with DOH and/or Provincial Health Office, as the case maybe, train City or Municipal Health Workers especially hospital or rural health personnel in handling and managing coronavirus suspect;

4.2.2.2.2 In coordination with the DOH and/or Provincial Health Office , as the case maybe, provide training to the local health workers , members of the BHERTs and barangay tanods on coronavirus prevention, containment and control;

4.2.2.2.3 In coordination with the DOH, DILG-PNP and/or Provincial Health Office, as the case maybe, provide training to local health workers members of the BHERTs and barangay tanods in enforcing the 14-day home confinement procedures for persons arriving from coronavirus affected country;

4.2.2.2.4 Conduct a city or municipal-wide information campaign on coronavirus prevention, containment and control;

4.2.2.2.5 Coordinate with Punong barangays in the conduct of a city or municipal -wide clean-up campaign; and

4.2.2.2.6 Monitor prices of medicines and coronavirus-preventive gadgets, and file charges against hoarding or overpricing.

4.2.3 For the Provincial Governor

4.2.3.1 On Containment and Control

4.2.3.1.1 Receive copy of record from the BI and other sources on persons arriving from a coronavirus-affected country bound to and residents of municipal and component cities of the province;

4.2.3.1.2 After receiving copy of such records, monitor the measures and actions taken by the Component City Mayor or Municipal Mayor in connection with the required 14-day home confinement of persons arriving from a coronavirus-affected country;

- 4.2.3.1.3 Refer, and transport, in coordination with the Component City or Municipal Mayor, a coronavirus suspect to the DOH-designated coronavirus referral center or hospital, in the event the concerned city or municipality does not have the capability or fails to transport such coronavirus suspect;
- 4.2.3.1.4 Provide logistical assistance to the Component City or Municipal Mayors in managing coronavirus suspects; and
- 4.2.3.1.5 Ensure that the mayors under the Provincial Government's jurisdiction fulfil their Anti-Coronavirus roles and responsibilities

4.2.3.2 On Prevention

- 4.2.3.2.1 In coordination with DOH, train Provincial Health Workers especially those hospital personnel in handling and managing Coronavirus suspects;
- 4.2.3.2.2 In coordination with the DOH Provincial Health Office, and Component City and Municipal Mayors, conduct a province-wide information campaign on coronavirus prevention, containment and control;
- 4.2.2.2.5 In coordination with the DOH Provincial Health Office, Component City and Municipal Mayors, conduct a province-wide clean-up campaign; and
- 4.2.2.2.6 Monitor measures and actions taken by the City or Municipal mayors in the fight against coronavirus.

4.3 All DILG Regional Directors and the BARMM Minister of Local Government are hereby directed to cause the immediate and widest dissemination of this Memorandum Circular to all LGUs within their respective regional assignments and see to it that the intent of this Circular is faithfully complied with by all concerned.

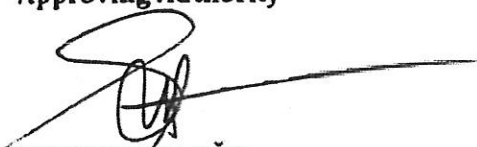
5.0 Effectivity

5.1 This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

6.0 Reference

6.1 Section 16, of Local Government Code of 1991

7.0 Approving Authority


EDUARDO M. AÑO
Secretary, DILG



DILG-OSEC 01312020-027