



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 April 2020

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2020 - 0160

TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS CHDREGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO; DIRECTORS OF CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHD), BUREAUS AND SERVICES; 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, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Interim Guidelines on Management for the National Capital Region Mega Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities in the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), World Trade Center (WTC), Rizal Memorial Coliseum (RMC), Ninoy Aquino Stadium, and Philippine Arena

I. INTRODUCTION

In order to optimize the model of care for COVID-19 and strengthen the health system response, the DOH hereby issues these interim guidelines, for a whole-of-government approach under a Universal Health Care framework, to deliver health services through the NCR Mega Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities (NCR Mega TTMF) under the management of the National Incident Command Emergency Operations Center (NIC-EOC) in coordination with the Department of Health for technical assistance and oversight, and with respective Local Government Units as clients, in accordance with the latest case definition for COVID-19.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The main purpose of the NCR Mega TTMF is to house coordinated asymptomatic and mild COVID-19 confirmed cases. No walk in patients shall be admitted.
2. Nothing in this issuance precludes admission of probable, or suspect COVID-19 cases with mild symptoms in NCR Mega TTMF, provided that they shall be placed in individual rooms with individual toilets in accordance with infection prevention and control practices.

3. NCR Mega TTMF shall have designated and separate areas for asymptomatic and mild COVID-19 confirmed cases.
4. The National Incident Command Emergency Operations Center (NIC-EOC) shall be the overall manager of the NCR Mega TTMF and shall ensure hiring of appropriate manpower, facility maintenance, and coordination with partner agencies. The NIC-EOC shall be responsible in organizing the Health Facility Management Team (HFMT) for each of the NCR Mega TTMF.
5. A team composed of DOH-CHD NCR, NIC-EOC, OCD, AFP, PNP, BFP, DILG, MMDA, PGH and other COVID Referral Hospitals, and local government units shall be created to provide oversight on the operations and management of the facilities.
6. DOH shall provide technical assistance in the development of referral protocols for the NCR Mega TTMF following facility standards as specified in DM No. 2020-0123, *“Interim Guidelines on the Management of Surge Capacity through the Conversion of Public Spaces to Operate as Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities”* and other subsequent operational issuances.
7. NCR Mega TTMF shall submit daily reports reflecting facility capacity, including but not limited to bed capacity, human resource, PPEs, through the regular reporting systems of NIC-EOC, copy furnished DOH.
8. To ensure proper navigation, minimize further spread of infection to the community, all patients shall only be immediately accepted for admission to the facility if there is direct proper coordination (i) from local health offices and partner primary care providers, if any; (ii) from hospitals when step-down care is a clinically indicated management option; and (iii) directly from home, via recognized telemedicine platforms.

Level of Care	COVID-19 patient pathway
Tertiary	COVID-19 Referral Hospitals
Secondary	COVID-19 Level 1 and Field Hospitals
Primary	NCR Mega TTMF
	BHERT/LESU* in coordination with the DOH-CHD
Household	Families and individuals

*Barangay Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT)

**Local Epidemiologic Surveillance Unit (LESU)

9. For the purposes of PhilHealth Circular No. 2020-0004 and subsequent related issuances from PhilHealth, all NCR Mega TTMF found and certified to be compliant with the standards by DOH Centers for Health Development within their respective jurisdictions can cater to cases of COVID-19 during the state of a

their respective jurisdictions can cater to cases of COVID-19 during the state of a national emergency, solely for the purpose of providing appropriate quarantine/isolation services for COVID-19 patients.

10. Patients in the NCR Mega TTMF shall have no visitors during their confinement. Communication will be allowed and encouraged through the provision of wireless internet facilities in the Facility.
11. For efficiency of navigation, ease in coordination, and efficient use of resources, DOH-CHD-MM, LGUs, health facilities, and civil society organizations, shall discuss and consensually agree on catchment areas and inter-facility arrangements based on the COVID-19 Patient Pathway, with the underlying principle of leaving no Filipino behind.

III. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

A. Social Preparation

1. Each NCR Mega TTMF shall have its own HFMT to oversee daily operations of the facilities.
2. The HFMT shall coordinate with the DOH Center for Health Development for NCR through the Development Management Officers, the City Health Offices, and the Local Chief Executives to develop supplemental policies for referral and prioritization should Section III. B. of this document proves insufficient.
3. The LCEs shall inform their communities of the importance of the NCR Mega TTMF in the National COVID-19 response and the procedures for screening, prioritization, and transfer of patients.

B. Triage and Referral of Suspect COVID-19 and Mild COVID-19 Confirmed Cases from Communities

1. The City Health Office or the Local Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit shall triage all probable and suspected cases of COVID-19, using existing protocol of DOH in the classification of cases.
2. All asymptomatic and mild confirmed COVID-19 cases shall be referred for admission to the NCR Mega TTMF.
3. The CHO or the LESU shall issue the request for admission to the NCR Mega TTMF through the CHD-RESU. No patient shall be admitted to the NCR Mega TTMF without the endorsement of the LESU and the CHD-RESU.
4. The originating LGU shall finance and facilitate the transport asymptomatic and mild COVID-19 patients from communities, ensuring compliance with DOTr social distancing guidelines in IATF Resolution No. 11 series 2020 dated March 12, 2020. Further, LGUs shall ensure the provision of transportation, with adequate human resources equipped with PPEs.

5. LGU Call Center Coordination Units and Designated Point Persons, as provided in DM No.2020-0133, shall facilitate patient transfers.
6. LGUs shall inform the CHD-RESU and coordinate readiness and approval of the NCR Mega TTMF prior to any transfer of patients.

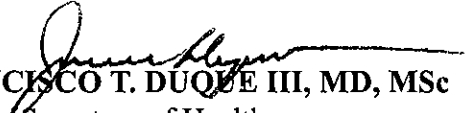
C. Transfer of Mild and Recovering COVID-19 Confirmed Cases from Hospitals

1. Mild COVID-19 confirmed cases or those who are recovering in hospitals may be transferred to any NCR Mega TTMF upon clearance from the patient's Attending Physician.
2. Transportation with adequate human resources equipped with PPEs shall be the responsibility of the originating facility, including its financing which shall be borne under PhilHealth's reimbursement and case rate policy.
3. The COVID-19 referral hospitals in NCR, namely the Philippine General Hospital, Lung Center of the Philippines, and the Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium, and other COVID-19 referral hospitals to be designated by the DOH shall be prioritized in the transfer of patients.
4. Hospital Call Center Coordination Units and Designated Point Persons, as requested in DM No. 2020-0133, shall facilitate patient transfers.
5. Hospitals shall inform the CHD-RESU and coordinate readiness and approval of the NCR Mega TTMF prior to any transfer of patients.
6. Nothing in this issuance precludes the NCR Mega TTMF to accept patients from other hospitals.

D. Guidelines on Discharge

1. The Attending Physician of the NCR Mega TTMF shall assess the medical status of the patient and decide on the patient's disposition.
2. Patients may be discharged from the NCR Mega TTMF upon clearance by the attending physician subject to criteria consistent with endorsed clinical practice guidelines.
3. Transfer of recovered patients to the community shall be facilitated by the NCR Mega TTMF in coordination with the originating LGU and the DOH-CHD.

For compliance of all concerned.


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Secretary of Health