

**Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang**

MEMORANDUM FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

TO : HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, AGENCIES, OFFICES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT OWNED OR -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS (GOCCs), GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (GFIs), STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCs) AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs)

SUBJECT : ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE RISING CASES OF COVID-19 IN THE COUNTRY

DATE : MARCH 21, 2021

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) under Resolution No. 104 dated 20 March 2021, the President has **APPROVED** the following measures to address the rising cases of COVID-19 in the country:


- A. Effective 22 March 2021 to 4 April 2021, the provinces of **Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna**, and **Rizal** shall be placed under General Community Quarantine together with the highly urbanized cities of the **National Capital Region**, including the municipality of Pateros. The said areas shall be treated as one Subject Area;
- B. The following additional restrictions shall be put in place in the entirety of the Subject Area during the above-stated period:
 - 1. To prevent the transmission of COVID-19 to other parts of the country, only essential travel into and out of the Subject Area shall be allowed. Public transportation shall remain to be operational at such capacities and protocols in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Transportation. The use of active transportation (e.g. bicycles) shall likewise be promoted;
 - 2. All mass gatherings including religious gatherings shall be prohibited. The holding of face-to-face meetings are highly discouraged and, as an alternative, virtual meetings are highly encouraged;
 - 3. Holding of weddings, baptisms, and funeral services shall be limited to ten (10) persons;
 - 4. Current operational capacities of essential and non-essential services/industries shall be maintained, subject to adherence to safety protocols and minimum public health standards, particularly in the prohibition of aggregation in communal areas such as pantries, canteens, etc. However, the private sector is enjoined to adopt similar alternative working arrangements as those already in place in the executive branch of government, i.e. thirty percent (30%) to fifty percent (50%) operational or on-site capacity, where applicable;

5. Dine-in restaurants, cafes, and establishments shall be limited to delivery, take-out, and outdoor or al fresco dining only. Outdoor or al fresco dining shall be allowed provided that additional engineering and administrative controls are put in place such as but not limited to, placing of acrylic or similar dividers, and limiting to two persons per table with appropriate seating arrangements (one-seat apart in a diagonal configuration);
 6. The suspension of operations of businesses/industries pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 103 issued on 18 March 2021, is hereby reiterated. The operations of driving schools, traditional cinemas and video- and interactive- game arcades, libraries, archives, museums, and cultural centers, limited social events at accredited establishments of the Department of Tourism, and limited tourist attractions except open-air tourist attractions shall be temporarily suspended. Cockfighting and cockpit operations, including in areas under Modified General Community Quarantine shall be temporarily suspended. Venue capacity of outdoor dine-in restaurants and cafes, and personal care services, shall be reduced to a maximum of fifty percent (50%);
 7. A common curfew shall be imposed between ten o'clock in the evening to five o'clock in the morning (10:00 PM to 5:00 AM). Workers, cargo vehicles, and public transportation, however, shall not be restricted by such curfew;
 8. Any person below eighteen (18) years old and above sixty-five (65) years old, those with immunodeficiency, comorbidity, or other health risks, and pregnant women shall be required to remain in their residences at all times, except when indispensable under the circumstances for obtaining essential goods and services, or for work in their respective industries and offices. Persons above sixty-five (65) years old may likewise be allowed for outdoor non-contact sports and other forms of outdoor exercises. Persons with disability (PWD) may be allowed outdoors for their therapy as well as for outdoor non-contact sports and other forms of outdoor exercises, upon presentation of prescription from their physicians or PWD ID;
 9. Visiting other households and persons outside one's immediate family is strongly discouraged. The wearing of face masks even at home for the elderly and the vulnerable, and for the rest of the household, is strongly advised.
 10. Subject to the above additional restrictions, all provisions applicable to GCQ areas in the Omnibus Guidelines in the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended, shall remain in effect in the Subject Area.
- C. The Department of the Interior and Local Government shall ensure that all local government units **throughout the country** undertake the following:
1. Ensure that the protocols for isolation/quarantine are completed before facilitating reintegration with the community;

2. Ensure and monitor minimum public health standards adherence, specifically in the following settings:
 - a. In the homes - distribute face masks and face shields especially to the vulnerable sectors, with the Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams and other barangay officials to monitor and ensure compliance of households; and
 - b. In the workplace - implement such other alternative working arrangements, with the Department of Labor and Employment and Department of Trade and Industry to monitor compliance of workplaces to minimum public health standards;
3. Activate the following surge responses for the health system:
 - a. Actively find cases in the barangays with highest cases using the Coordinated Operations to Defeat the Epidemic (CODE) visits;
 - b. Increase and improve facility-based quarantine and isolation through the Oplan Kalinga;
 - c. Ensure appropriate patient care navigation through the use of One Hospital Command Center, Oplan Kalinga, and local government unit call centers with referral of mild and moderate cases to available temporary treatment and monitoring facilities; and
 - d. Increase dedicated beds to surge capacity (30% for private and 50% for public) to increase health system capacity.

All heads of departments, agencies, offices and instrumentalities of the government, including the Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine Coast Guard, GOCCs, GFIs, SUCs, and LGUs are hereby directed to strictly observe and implement the abovementioned measures.

By Order of the President:


SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA
Executive Secretary