



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

March 7, 2020

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR**

No. 2020- 0108

- 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. 14 - Clarification on Management and Referral of Close Contacts of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases**


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In view of the confirmation of the local case of COVID-19, the Department of Health issues the following clarification to guide the public and health care providers in the management and referral of close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases:

1. Close contacts are defined as a person involved in any of the following:
  - a. Providing direct care without proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for COVID-19 patients;
  - b. Staying in the same close environment of a COVID-19 patient (including workplace, classroom, household, gathering) within the past 14-day period; or
  - c. Traveling together in close proximity (1 meter or less) with a COVID-19 patient in any kind of conveyance within a 14-day period after the onset of symptoms in the case under consideration.
2. Close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases are advised to fully cooperate in contact tracing activities. The DOH in coordination with local health authorities will directly communicate with identified close contacts. In cases where there is difficulty ascertaining contacts, the DOH will collaborate with local institutions or issue specific advisories.
3. Only those deemed to be close contacts or Patients Under Investigation (PUIs) by the health center or rural health units shall be referred to Level 2 and Level 3 hospitals for testing.

4. All others who have visited places frequented by confirmed cases of COVID-19 are **not required** to seek medical consultation and subject themselves to COVID-19 laboratory testing. They are advised to self-monitor and if with symptoms, consult health center or rural health units for appropriate management and monitoring.
5. For more information, the public is advised to visit the dedicated website of the Department for COVID-19 at [www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV](http://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV) or call (632) 8651-7800 local 1149 or 1150.

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