



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

March 19, 2020

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR**

No. 2020 - 0144

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

**SUBJECT: Public Advisory No. 19 - Prohibition of Hoarding of Drugs and Medicines, Profiteering, Illegal Combination, Formation of Cartels, and All Other Acts Committed in Restraint of Trade in COVID-19 Response**


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The Department of Health strictly forbids the hoarding of drugs and medicines, profiteering, illegal combination, formation of cartels, and all other acts committed in restraint of trade during the COVID-19 situation. These are acts of Illegal Price Manipulation which are punishable under Section 24 of R.A. 9502 or the *“Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008”*.

This public advisory is a reiteration of the Department’s stringent warning against persons and entities who take advantage of the current Enhanced Community Quarantine. Persons found liable for the said acts shall be strictly dealt with.

The DOH enjoins the cooperation of the public to purchase only a reasonable quantity of drugs, medicines and supplies, in consideration of everyone in the community. This is to avoid shortages and hindrance of the flow of medical and drug supplies to every person in need.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.

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