



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

April 9, 2020

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2020 - 0172

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 PHILIPPINE 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: Guidance on Misting or Spraying for COVID-19

The Department of Health enjoins the public to **AVOID** spraying and misting for COVID-19 at this time. There is no evidence to support that spraying surfaces or large scale misting of areas, indoor or outdoor with disinfecting agents, kills the virus.

Misting or spraying also poses an additional health and safety concerns as it can (1) cause any pathogens to be dispersed further from the direct application of a spray, (2) result to skin irritation or inhalation of chemicals and subsequent development of respiratory side effects, and (3) may also cause environmental pollution and should be avoided.

To kill the virus, objects have to be soaked completely or surfaces cleaned directly with disinfectants.

Dissemination of the above information is requested.


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