



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

September 1, 2022

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2022- 0397

TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHD); 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; DIRECTORS OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS, AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Reiteration on the COVID-19 Testing of Public and Private Healthcare Workers

In compliance to the Department Memorandum (DM) No. 2020-0546 dated November 27, 2020 titled “Interim Guidelines on Mandatory COVID-19 Testing of Public And Private Healthcare Workers”, all public and private healthcare workers in hospitals and health facilities are eligible for mandatory testing for diagnosis, screening and surveillance.

This issuance is further supported by DM No 2022-0013 dated January 14, 2022 titled “Updated Guidelines on Quarantine, Isolation and Testing for COVID-19 Response and Case Management for the Omicron Variant” which stipulates priority testing using RT PCR for groups at highest risk for infection such as Priority Group A1* or healthcare workers as deemed necessary.

Relative to this, all heads of facilities with the assistance of the CHDs are enjoined to ensure the provision of free testing services for all healthcare workers.

For strict compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

NESTOR F. SANTIAGO, JR., MPH, MHA, CESO II
Undersecretary of Health
Team Lead in Charge, COVID-19 Laboratory Network

* Priority Group A1 = Frontline workers in health facilities both national and local, private and public, health professionals and non-professionals like students in health and allied professions courses with clinical responsibilities, nursing aides, janitors, barangay health workers, etc. Subpriority A1 and Expanded A1 included if resources are available.