



**EXTREMELY URGENT**

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

December 31, 2022

**DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

No. 2022 - 0578

**TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHD); MINISTER OF HEALTH- BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (MOH-BARMM); CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA AND INSTITUTES, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT: Reiteration of Heightened Alert for COVID-19 Arrival From China**

Following the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in China, there is a need for the country to intensify the monitoring and implementation of border control protocols for incoming individuals, especially from China, at all ports of entry.

In view of this, the Directors of all Centers for Health Development (CHD) are directed to ensure continuous coordination with concerned agencies, intergovernmental bodies, and local government units in their respective regions to monitor and provide assistance as needed to the intensified implementation of border control protocols at all ports of entry, including but not limited to:

1. Heightened surveillance on all respiratory symptoms in all travelers and conveyances coming from China including a thorough review of the submitted Maritime Declaration of Health and health part of Aircraft General Declaration;
2. Reporting of intercepted symptomatic passengers during arrival Screening;
3. Submission of reports of COVID-positive travelers from Points of Entry;
4. Information dissemination among travelers regarding COVID-19 infection prevention and control;
5. Coordination with airport and seaport terminal authorities for possible re-establishment of testing of inbound travelers from high alert countries; and,
6. Coordination with port and airport authorities and partners on identifying areas for the display of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials.

Meanwhile, to ensure minimal local transmission in anticipation of possible case increases, all CHDs are likewise directed to continue the strict implementation of the Updated Guidelines on Minimum Public Health Standards, as aligned with Department Memorandum 2022-0433, as well as other relevant COVID-19 surveillance and mitigation measures, including but not limited to:

1. Implementation of updated testing and isolation protocols;
2. Monitoring of hospital utilization rates and organization of respective local referral networks;

3. Preparation and augmentation of resources, especially telemedicine providers, for possible increase in patients with respiratory symptoms
4. Reiteration of messages emphasizing the importance of layers of protection (mask use, getting most updated vaccines, and self-isolation if unwell) for the general public

Finally, Undersecretaries of the Field Implementation and Coordination Team are directed to monitor compliance to the directives provided herein; in parallel, all CHD Directors are directed to provide regular updates to their respective Undersecretaries.

For strict compliance and dissemination to all concerned.



Digitally signed  
by Vergeire Maria  
Rosario Singh

**MARIA ROSARIO SINGH-VERGEIRE, MD, MPH, CESO II**  
**OIC-Secretary of Health**