



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 31, 2021

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2021 - 0118

TO: ALL DIRECTORS OF CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHD); MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO; DOH-LICENSED PRIVATELY-OWNED COVID-19 TESTING LABORATORIES AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Continuity of Operations of Private COVID-19 Testing Laboratories during the Observance of the Holy Week

The Department of Health commends all DOH-Licensed COVID-19 Testing Laboratories for continuously being our partners in ensuring the accessibility of testing in the country. The DOH is committed for the effective implementation of the Prevention, Detection, Isolation, Treatment, and Reintegration (PDITR) strategy, especially during these hard times.

As of March 30, 2021, there are 124,680 active COVID 19 cases in the Philippines. With the increasing number of cases, the Inter-agency Task Force (IATF) Resolution No. 106-A s. 2021 has placed Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, and National Capital Region under Enhanced Community Quarantine from March 29, 2021 until April 4, 2021.

Due to the exigency of service, all private DOH-licensed COVID-19 Testing Laboratories are strongly encouraged to continue their full operations even during the observance of Holy Week (1-2 April 2021) holidays.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francisco T. Duque III", is written over a horizontal line.

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