



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

September 06, 2022

**DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

No. 2022- 0411

**TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHD); MINISTER OF HEALTH — BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO); AND OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT: Guidelines Relative to Ramping up of COVID-19 Contact Tracing and Testing**

Since July 11, 2022, the Philippines has been experiencing a cumulative positivity rate for COVID-19 of more than the threshold of ten percent (10%). As of September 05, 2022, the cumulative positivity rate for COVID-19 in the Philippines is at 13.79%, with the majority of regions having positivity rates above the ten percent (10%) threshold.

This memorandum highlights the guidelines for concerned authorities who will conduct ramp-up COVID-19 contact tracing and testing. Pursuant to 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", COVID-19 RT-PCR testing shall be prioritized for the following population groups:


- A1\*:** Health care workers
- A2:** Senior Citizens
- A3\*\*:** Persons with Co-morbidities, including those at high risk for severe disease

Further, should there be more resources available, all concerned authorities and COVID-19 laboratories may conduct RT-PCR testing for close contacts, provided that the following criteria must be met:

- Symptomatic close contacts:** testing at the onset of symptoms.
- Asymptomatic close contacts:** testing should be done at least five (5) days from the day of last exposure.

For your reference.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

  
Date:  
2022.09.16  
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**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.

\*\* Pediatric A3 and Expanded A3 per AO 2022-0005 included if resources are available.