



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

RESOLUTION NO. 104

Series of 2021
March 20, 2021

WHEREAS, Section 15 Article II of the 1987 Constitution states that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, Section 2(b) of Executive Order No. 168 mandates the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases to prevent and/or minimize the entry of suspected or confirmed patients with emerging infectious diseases into the country;

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2020, the President issued Proclamation No. 1021 (s.2020) extending the period of the State of Calamity throughout the Philippines until September 21, 2021;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health received reports regarding a new variant of the SARS-CoV-2 (B.1.1.7 or VUI 2020/12/01) spreading in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) and another variant identified in South Africa (501.V2);

WHEREAS, Memoranda of the Executive Secretary provided for additional measures to be observed relative to the SARS-COV-2 Variant detected in the United Kingdom including the imposition of travel restrictions on countries/jurisdictions where the new COVID-19 variants were officially reported, and subjected Filipino citizens coming from the same countries/jurisdictions to an absolute 14-day quarantine period notwithstanding a negative Reverse-Transcription - Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result;

WHEREAS, the continued implementation of proactive measures is necessary to ensure the utmost protection of the health of the Filipino people.

WHEREAS, as of March 20, 2021, there are a total of Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Forty-Two (80,642) active COVID-19 cases in the Philippines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the IATF endorses to the President for his approval, the following measures to address the rising cases of COVID-19 in the National Capital Region and contiguous provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal effective for the limited period of March 22, 2021 until April 4, 2021, subject to review upon the expiration of said period:



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- A. The provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal shall be placed under General Community Quarantine together with the highly urbanized cities of the National Capital Region, and the municipality of Pateros. For purposes of this Resolution, the following areas shall be treated as one Subject Area;
- B. The following additional restriction measures shall be put in place in the entirety of the Subject Area:
 - a. To prevent the transmission of COVID-19 to other parts of the country, only essential travel into and out of the Subject Area shall be allowed. Public transportation shall remain to be operational at such capacities and protocols in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Transportation. The use of active transportation shall likewise be promoted;
 - b. All mass gatherings including religious gatherings shall be prohibited. The holding of face-to-face meetings are highly discouraged and in the alternative, virtual meetings are highly encouraged;
 - c. Holding of weddings, baptisms, and funeral services shall be limited to 10 persons;
 - d. Current operational capacities of essential and non-essential services/industries shall be maintained, subject to adherence to safety protocols and minimum public health standards, particularly in the prohibition of aggregation in communal areas such as pantries, canteens, etc. However, the private sector is enjoined to adopt similar alternative working arrangements as those already in place in the executive branch of government, i.e. thirty percent (30%) to fifty percent (50%) operational or on-site capacity, where applicable;
 - e. Dine-in restaurants, cafes, and establishments shall be limited to delivery, take-out, and any outdoor or *al fresco* dining shall be allowed provided that additional engineering and administrative controls are put in place such as but not limited to, placing of acrylic or similar dividers, limiting to two persons per table with appropriate seating arrangements (one-seat apart in a diagonal configuration);
 - f. The suspension of operations of businesses/industries pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 103 issued on March 18, 2021, is hereby reiterated. The operations of driving schools, traditional cinemas and video- and interactive- game arcades, libraries, archives, museums, and cultural centers, limited social events at accredited establishments of the DOT, and limited tourist attractions except open-air tourist attractions shall be temporarily suspended. Cockfighting and cockpit operations, including in



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areas under Modified General Community Quarantine shall be temporarily suspended. Venue capacity of outdoor dine-in restaurants and cafes, personal care services shall be reduced to a maximum of fifty percent (50%);

- g. A common curfew shall be imposed between ten o'clock in the evening to five o'clock in the morning (10:00 PM to 5:00 AM). Workers, cargo vehicles, and public transportation, however, shall not be restricted by such curfew;
- h. Any person below eighteen (18) years old and above sixty-five (65) years old, those with immunodeficiency, comorbidity, or other health risks, and pregnant women, including any persons who reside with the aforementioned, shall be required to remain in their residences at all times, except when indispensable under the circumstances for obtaining essential goods and services, or for work in their respective industries and offices. Persons above sixty-five (65) years old may likewise be allowed for outdoor non-contact sports and other forms of outdoor exercises; Persons with disability (PWD) may be allowed outdoors for their therapy as well as for outdoor non-contact sports and other forms of outdoor exercises, upon presentation of prescription from their physicians or presentation of PWD ID;
- i. Visiting persons outside their immediate family or other households is strongly discouraged. Even at home, the wearing of masks for the elderly and the vulnerable and for the rest of the household, is strongly advised; and
- j. Subject to the above additional restrictions, all provisions applicable to GCQ areas in the Omnibus Guidelines in the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended, shall remain in effect in the Subject Area

C. The Department of the Interior and Local Government is directed to ensure that all local government units enforce the following measures:

- a. Ensure that the protocols for isolation/quarantine are completed before facilitating reintegration with the community.
- b. Ensure and monitor minimum public health standards adherence specifically in the following settings:
 - i. In the homes - distribute masks and face shields especially to the vulnerable sectors, with the Barangay Health Emergency Response



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- Teams and other barangay officials to monitor and ensure compliance of households; and
- ii. In the workplace - implement such other alternative working arrangements, with the Department of Labor and Employment- Department of Trade and Industry to monitor compliance of workplaces to minimum public health standards.
- c. Activate the following surge responses for the health system:
- i. Actively find cases in the barangays with highest cases using the Coordinated Operations to Defeat the Epidemic (CODE) visits
 - ii. Increase and improve the facility-based quarantine and isolation through the Oplan Kalinga
 - iii. Ensure appropriate patient care navigation through the use of One Hospital Command Center, Oplan Kalinga, and local government unit call centers with referral of mild and moderate cases to available temporary treatment and monitoring facilities; and
 - iv. Increase dedicated beds to surge capacity (30% private and 50% public) to increase health system capacity.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Chairperson and the Co-Chairperson shall be duly authorized to sign this Resolution for and on behalf of the Inter-Agency Task Force.

APPROVED during the 104th Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, held this 20th of March 2021 *via* video conference.


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III
Secretary, Department of Health
IATF Chairperson


KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES
Secretary, Office of the Cabinet Secretariat
IATF Co-Chairperson