



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 4, 2020

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2020 - 0315

TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT; 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; PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION; DIRECTORS OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS, AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Reiteration on the Recovery Criteria and Monitoring and Clearance of Recovered Patients by the Local Health Offices

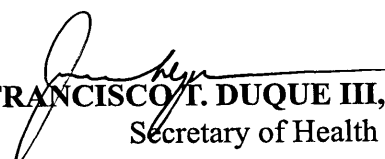
The Department of Health (DOH) reiterates the recovery criteria for confirmed COVID-19 cases in Department Memorandum 2020-0258 entitled *Updated Guidelines in Expanded Testing for COVID-19*:

“Discharge and recovery criteria for suspect, probable, and confirmed COVID-19 cases shall no longer entail repeat testing. Symptomatic patients who have clinically recovered and are no longer symptomatic for at least 3 days and have completed at least 14 days of isolation either at home, temporary treatment and monitoring facility, or hospital, can be tagged as a recovered confirmed case and reintegrated to the community without the need for further testing, provided that a licensed medical doctor clears the patient. Patients who test RT-PCR positive and remain asymptomatic for at least 14 days can discontinue quarantine and tagged as a recovered confirmed case without need for further testing, provided a licensed medical doctor clears the patient.”

Moreover, the DOH emphasizes the immediate implementation of the time-based tagging of recoveries for mild and asymptomatic cases. The Department also directs all licensed COVID-19 testing laboratories not to accept specimens for repeat testing intended for discharging and tagging mild and asymptomatic cases as recovered.

Furthermore, DOH underscores that local health offices are responsible for clearing and monitoring asymptomatic and mild confirmed cases who have completed the 14-day quarantine or isolation, provided that for mild cases symptoms have resolved for at least three days prior to clearing.

Dissemination of the above information is requested.


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