



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

November 27, 2020

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR**  
**No. 2020- 039**

**TO :** **ALL UNDERSECRETARIES; ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS, CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES; 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 :** **PRICE RANGE FOR COVID-19 REVERSE TRANSCRIPTION-POLYMERASE REACTION (RT-PCR) TESTING**

Last November 4, 2020, Executive Order (EO) No. 118 was signed, which mandated the Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), to determine, formulate and implement a price range for COVID-19 testing conducted by hospitals, laboratories, and other health establishments and facilities including the test kits used in the conduct of said tests, subject to existing rules, and regulations.

In view of EO 118, Joint Administrative Order No. 1, s. 2020 was issued to implement regulation of prices of COVID-19 testing and test kits. As stated in the JAO, a monthly review will be conducted by DOH and DTI, hence, the mandated price range shall be subject to change. Pursuant to the foregoing, the following price range is set for RT-PCR testing, for compliance of all licensed COVID-19 testing laboratories nationwide.

Category of Laboratory	Plate-based RT-PCR	
	Reference (Minimum) <sup>2</sup>	Cap (Maximum) <sup>3</sup>
Private <sup>1</sup>	PhP 4,500.00	PhP 5,000.00
Public	PhP 3,800.00	PhP 3,800.00

<sup>1</sup> This includes facilities that are under a public-private partnership agreement.

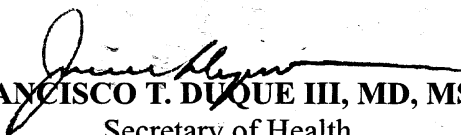
<sup>2</sup> Facilities may charge patients for COVID-19 testing at a price below the reference price, provided that quality of service shall still be maintained.

<sup>3</sup> Facilities shall not charge patients at a price exceeding the maximum price.

This price range is already inclusive of all costs associated with testing, including a faster turnaround time and other premium services. This information shall be available for public access in the DOH website and other social media platforms.

All COVID-19 testing laboratories are to strictly comply with this price range **starting November 30, 2020.**

Dissemination to all concerned stakeholders is requested.



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