



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

February 16, 2021

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2021 - 0070

TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA, INSTITUTES, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS; DOH ATTACHED AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS; AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Supplemental Guidance for the Implementation of the Omnibus Interim Guidelines on Prevention, Detection, Isolation, Treatment, and Reintegration Strategies for COVID-19

As provided in the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) Resolution No. 97 series of 2021, all implementing agencies are urged to strictly implement the following measures:

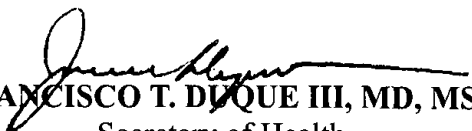
1. Minimum public health standards, which include physical distancing, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and wearing of masks among others, **shall be strictly implemented across ALL settings.**
2. To emphasize its importance in determining the appropriate courses of action for individuals, especially inbound travelers, **clinical and exposure assessment shall be strictly implemented in ALL ports of entry and exit** to ensure that only asymptomatic, non-close contact individuals are allowed to travel to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2. Clinical assessments shall be conducted by licensed or deputized health workers, such as physicians, nurses, or midwives in the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), using the standardized clinical and exposure assessment form (*see Annex A*).
3. All inbound international travelers staying for more than 14 days shall be **placed under facility quarantine and tested on Day 5 in quarantine (with date of arrival as Day 0) or when symptoms manifest, whichever is earlier**, using RT-PCR. Regardless of test results, all inbound international travelers shall complete 14-day quarantine. Those who manifested symptoms or tested positive shall strictly complete 10-day isolation in the appropriate facility from the date of swabbing or onset of illness, whichever is later.
4. Local government units (LGU) are urged to strictly monitor all travelers entering their localities.
5. All suspect, probable, and confirmed cases shall be isolated in the appropriate facility depending on the severity of symptoms. Asymptomatic confirmed and mild cases

shall be admitted and isolated in Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities (TTMFs). Moderate cases shall be isolated and managed in Level 1 or Level 2 hospitals. Severe and critical cases shall be isolated and managed in Level 2 or Level 3 hospitals. Step-down care and proper inter-health facility referral system shall be applied to all cases whenever applicable.

6. Contact tracing shall be initiated after case investigation of every reported probable and confirmed COVID-19 case. As part of active contact tracing, it shall also be initiated after identification of suspect cases. All close contacts shall be placed under quarantine for monitoring.
7. Repeat testing shall **NOT** be required for the discharge criteria of suspect, probable, and confirmed COVID-19 cases, provided that a licensed medical doctor certifies or clears the patient.
 - a. Patients with mild symptoms who have completed at least 10 days of isolation from the onset of illness and have been asymptomatic or clinically recovered for 3 consecutive days may already be discharged.
 - b. Patients with moderate, severe or critical symptoms who have completed at least 21 days of isolation in a hospital from the onset of illness and have been asymptomatic or clinically recovered for 3 consecutive days may already be discharged.
 - c. Asymptomatic confirmed cases who remained asymptomatic for at least 10 days from date of specimen collection may already be discharged.
 - d. Close contacts who remain asymptomatic for at least 14 days from date of exposure may already discontinue their quarantine.
 - e. Inbound international travelers who test PCR negative (-) and are asymptomatic may discontinue quarantine after 14 days.

For guidance, agencies may follow the algorithm for inbound international travelers and interzonal domestic travelers (*see Annex B*). To ensure the strict monitoring of travelers and ensure their compliance to the protocols set by the revised omnibus interim guidelines and local authorities, the Bureau of Quarantine and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration shall provide the DOH and LGUs information on travelers who will return to their respective localities.

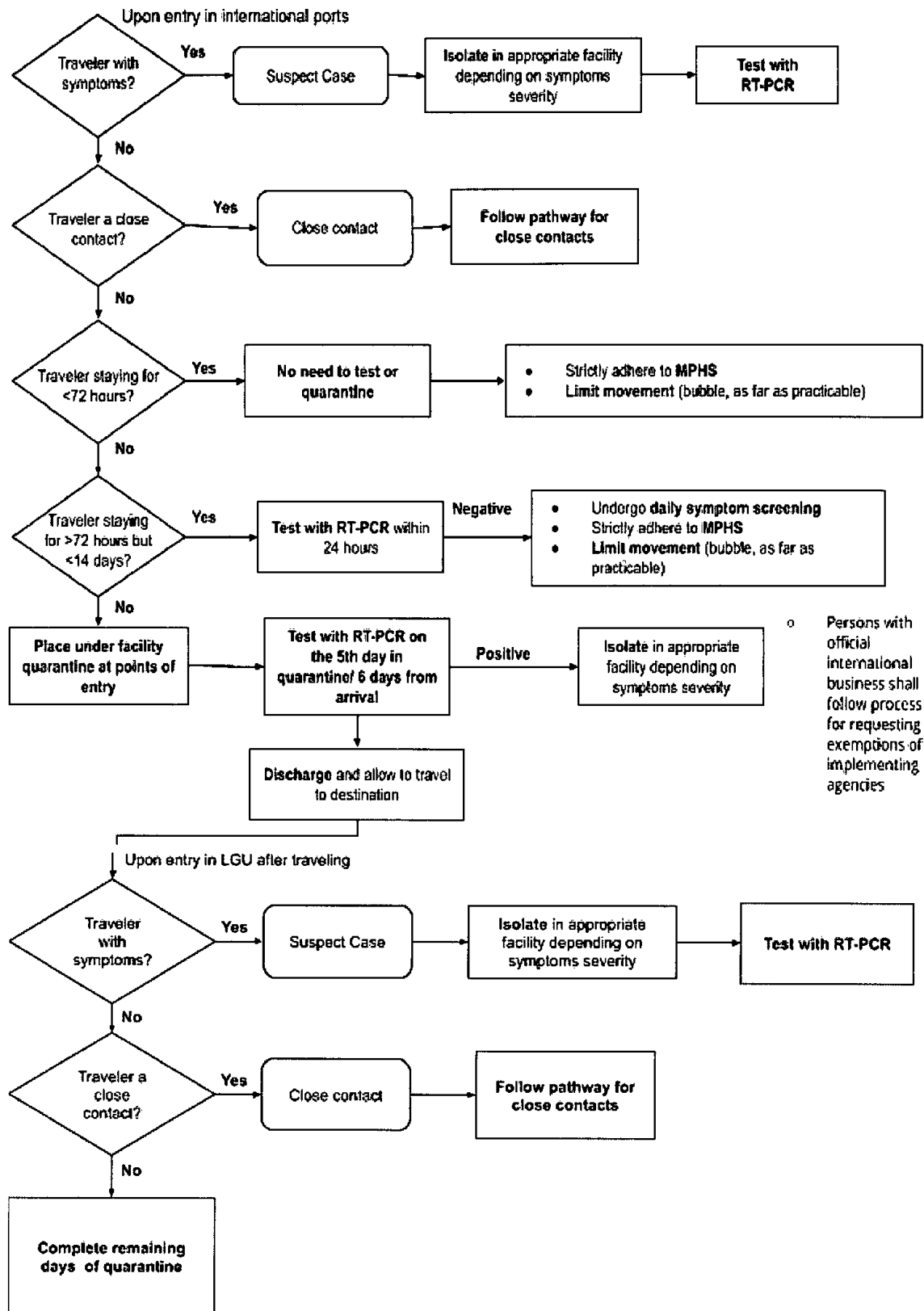
For strict compliance.


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

ANNEX A. Standardized Clinical and Exposure Assessment Form

A. Clinical Information		
Symptoms	Date of Onset	Comorbidities
<input type="checkbox"/> Fever _____ °C		<input type="checkbox"/> None
<input type="checkbox"/> Cough		<input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension
<input type="checkbox"/> General weakness		<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes
<input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue		<input type="checkbox"/> Heart Disease
<input type="checkbox"/> Headache		<input type="checkbox"/> Lung Disease
<input type="checkbox"/> Myalgia		<input type="checkbox"/> Gastrointestinal
<input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat		<input type="checkbox"/> Genito-urinary
<input type="checkbox"/> Coryza		<input type="checkbox"/> Neurological Disease
<input type="checkbox"/> Dyspnea		<input type="checkbox"/> Cancer
<input type="checkbox"/> Anorexia		<input type="checkbox"/> Others:
<input type="checkbox"/> Nausea		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting		
<input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea		
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered Mental Status		
<input type="checkbox"/> Anosmia (loss of smell)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ageusia (loss of taste)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Others: _____		
Other Risk Factors		
<input type="checkbox"/> Elderly	Age: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant	High risk?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

ANNEX B. Algorithm for Inbound International Travelers



Day 1 of arrival = Day 0 quarantine
 Day 2 from arrival = Day 1 quarantine
 Day 3 from arrival = Day 2 of quarantine
 Day 4 from arrival = Day 3 of quarantine
 Day 5 from arrival = Day 4 of quarantine
 Day 6 from arrival = Day 5 of quarantine

ANNEX C. Algorithm for Interzonal Domestic Travelers

