



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

RESOLUTION NO. 92

Series of 2020

January 05, 2020

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);

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Memorandum of the Executive Secretary dated December 29, 2020, providing for additional measures to be observed relative to the SARS-COV-2 Variant detected in the United Kingdom, travel restrictions on was placed on nineteen (19) countries/jurisdictions, 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, as of January 05, 2021, there are a total of Twenty-One Nine Hundred Ninety-Seven (21,997) active COVID-19 cases in the Philippines;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the IATF approves the following recommendations of the IATF Technical Working Group, the specifics of which are as follows:

- A. In compliance with the directives of the President, a Technical Working Group on COVID-19 Variants shall be established to monitor and identify the occurrence of SARS-CoV-2 variants in the country; and provide policy recommendations to the IATF on the response against any variants of concern. The TWG shall be composed



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of the following agency representatives, and such other agencies/representatives and/or institutions as may be identified by the DOH in the process of the convention:

Chair: Usec. Maria Rosario Singh-Vergeire, *Department of Health*;
Co-Chair: Executive Director Jaime Montoya, *Philippine Council for Health Research and Development*;

Members:

1. Dr. Anna Ong-Lim, *DOH Technical Advisory Group (TAG)*;
2. Dr. Marissa Alejandria, *DOH TAG*;
3. Dr. Edsel Maurice Salvaña, *DOH TAG*;
4. Dr. Celia Carlos, *Research Institute for Tropical Medicine*;
5. Dr. Eva Maria Cutiongco-dela Paz, *University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health*;
6. Dr. Cynthia Saloma, *University of the Philippines - Philippine Genome Center*; and
7. Dr. John Wong, *Epimetrics*.

B. The DOH, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Tourism, the Department of the Interior and Local Government particularly for local government units, Department of Information and Communications Technology, the Office of the Presidential Spokesperson and the Presidential Communications Operations Office are directed to further strengthen their enforcement, monitoring, and communication efforts or impose such other additional specific measures to mitigate the possible holiday surge of COVID-19 cases;

C. All foreign travelers coming from, or with travel history within the last 14 days prior to arrival in the Philippines in countries/jurisdictions covered by travel restrictions for the COVID-19 variant shall not be permitted entry into the Philippines until January 15, 2021, notwithstanding any previous IATF resolutions or exemptions, except for the following:

- a. Local/accredited foreign diplomats and international organizations such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations shall be exempted from quarantine protocols provided they will undergo RT-PCR test upon arrival at the airport, execute an undertaking, and observe strict 14-day quarantine pursuant to relevant DOH memorandum circular;




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- b. Foreign dignitaries who shall observe existing testing and quarantine protocols upon arrival; and
 - c. Those for medical and emergency cases, including their medical escorts, if any.
- D. Filipino citizens coming from countries/jurisdictions where travel restrictions are in place, or who have been to the same within fourteen (14) days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines shall undergo strict observation of absolute fourteen (14) day facility-based quarantine period save for highly exceptional and/or medical reasons upon the determination of the Department of Health; and
- E. Cognizant of the current limited knowledge as to the effect of available vaccines on the transmissibility of COVID-19, any individual arriving in the Philippines who may have received vaccination for COVID-19 in other countries/jurisdictions shall still be required to observe the mandatory testing and quarantine protocols.

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 this 5th of January 2021 via videoconference.


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


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



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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that:

1. I am presently an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health;
2. I am the interim OIC-Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases created under Executive Order No. 168, series of 2014 and chaired by the Department of Health (DOH);
3. The IATF Secretariat holds office in the DOH Main Office, San Lazaro Compound, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila;
4. I am the custodian of the records of the IATF, including the Minutes of Meetings and Resolutions;
5. In a regular meeting of the IATF, the IATF Resolution No. 92 was unanimously approved and adopted;
6. The foregoing resolution has been signed by Secretary Francisco T. Duque III upon the authority of the IATF Members;
7. The aforesaid resolution has not been altered, modified nor revoked and the same is now in full force and effect;
8. I am executing this Certification for whatever legitimate purpose this may serve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 5th day of January 2021, Manila.


ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO-GRANDE
OIC-Head of the Secretariat, IATF
Assistant Secretary of Health