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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## [DENR-MGB clamps down on illegal, small-scale miners in Nueva Vizcaya](#)

AUG 5, 2021, 5:12 PM

Santiago Celario  
Writer

***Environment Sec. Cimatu said these unregulated mining activities pose dangers to the environment, and even to human lives.***

**THE** Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) led the dismantling of various illegal mining equipment during a series of operations conducted against small-scale mining activities in Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya from July 27 to 29.

The joint operations which were carried out by MGB-Region 2, DENR Region 2, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office-Nueva Vizcaya, Community Environment and Natural Resources Office-Aritao.

They were joined by National Bureau of Investigation-Region 2, Philippine National Police, and Armed Forces of the Philippines, in coordination with FCF Minerals Corporation.

Recovered during the operations were ball mills, shafting, diesel engines, pulleys, and other equipment used in illegal small-scale mining activities at Barangay Runruno.

*"In the case of illegal small-scale mining, miners tend to dig and drill with no proper control on extractive operations. These unregulated mining activities pose dangers to the environment, and even to human lives," said DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.*

MGB-Region 2 Director Mario Ancheta said the absence of documents, permits, or authority in the conduct of mining operations and the transport of minerals/mineral products and by-products will be considered as prima facie evidence of illegal mining.

*"This shall cause the seizure/confiscation of the minerals/mineral products and by-products and the tools, conveyances, and equipment used in the commission of the offense in favor of the government," Ancheta pointed out.*

Prior to the operation, MGB-Region 2 directed an investigation of the ongoing small-scale mining operations within the Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) contract area of mining firm FCF Minerals Corporation.

MGB said that the said firm has not yet utilized or developed the said area.

Given the location, Ancheta pointed out that the mining area cannot be declared as a "Minahang Bayan" site.



He added that despite constant dialogues and warnings, the small-scale miners, who were identified to be illegal settlers, continued to defy the MGB's order to vacate and leave the area.

The MGB-Region 2 also served cease-and-desist orders against the illegal mining activities last July 7 to 9.

Charges will be filed against the miners for violation of Republic Act (RA) 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and RA 7076 or the People's Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991.

The implementing rules and regulations of RA 7076 state that: "No small-scale mining shall be undertaken outside a Minahang Bayan and that no entity shall engage in small-scale mining without a small-scale mining contract."

MGB-Region 2 has been monitoring the activities in the area since a landslide occurred on Nov. 13, 2020.

It has previously recommended to the local government of Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya to relocate the illegal settlers.



# DENR, police, AFP halt small-scale mining operation in Nueva Vizcaya

BY JONATHAN L. MAYUGA AUGUST 5, 2021

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has dismantled small-scale mines and stopped their destructive activities in Quezon town, Nueva Vizcaya province.

The operations were spearheaded by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) from July 27 to 29 in cooperation with the National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine National Police, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and FCF Minerals Corp.

Seized during the operations were mining equipment, including ball mills, shafting, diesel engines, pulleys and other equipment used in the illegal mining activities in Barangay Runruno.

“In the case of illegal small-scale mining, miners tend to dig and drill with no proper control on extractive operations. These unregulated mining activities pose dangers to the environment, and even to human lives,” DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said in a news statement.

MGB Region 2 Director Mario A. Ancheta said the absence of documents, permits, or authority in the conduct of mining operations and the transport of minerals/mineral products and by-products will be considered as prima facie evidence of illegal mining.

“This shall cause the seizure/confiscation of the minerals/mineral products and by-products and the tools, conveyances, and equipment used in the commission of the offense in favor of the government,” Ancheta pointed out.

Prior to the operation, the MGB Region 2 directed an investigation of the ongoing small-scale mining operations within the Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) contract area of mining firm FCF Minerals Corp.

Subsequently, the MGB-Region 2 probe showed that the said firm has not yet utilized or developed the said area.

Given the location, Ancheta pointed out that the mining area cannot be declared as a “Minahang Bayan” site.

He added that despite constant dialogues and warnings, the small-scale miners, who were identified to be illegal settlers, continued to defy the MGB’s order to vacate and leave the area.

The MGB-Region 2 served cease-and-desist orders against the illegal mining activities last July 7 to 9.

“I have previously proposed to these illegal miners to look for other areas that can be applied for as Minahang Bayan since this area is prohibited. However, they continue to extract the area,” Ancheta said.

Charges will be filed against the miners for violation of Republic Act (RA) 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and RA 7076 or the People’s Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991.

The implementing rules and regulations of RA 7076 state that: “No small-scale mining shall be undertaken outside a Minahang Bayan and that no entity shall engage in small-scale mining without a small-scale mining contract.”

MGB Region 2 has been monitoring the activities in the area since a landslide occurred on Nov. 13, 2020. It has previously recommended to the local government of Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya to relocate the illegal settlers.

Source: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/08/05/denr-police-afp-halt-small-scale-mining-operation-in-nueva-vizcaya/>



## MGB dismantles illegal mine in Nueva Vizcaya

August 5, 2021 | 8:26 pm

MINING EQUIPMENT used in illegal small-scale mining activity was seized and dismantled in Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya in late July, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said.

The MGB said in a statement this week that the equipment included ball mills, diesel engines, pulleys, and other items, which were dismantled, while a number of small-scale miners were also apprehended.

The illegal activity was halted following joint operations by the MGB, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office of Nueva Vizcaya.

According to MGB Region 2 Director Mario A. Ancheta, the absence of documentation to conduct mining operations and transport minerals or mineral products and by-products is considered prima facie evidence of illegal mining.

“This shall cause the seizure or confiscation of the minerals or mineral products and by-products and the tools, conveyances, and equipment used in the commission of the offense in favor of the government,” Mr. Ancheta said.

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said miners involved in illegal small-scale mining usually dig and drill without proper oversight.

“These unregulated mining activities pose a danger to the environment, and to human life,” Mr. Cimatu said.

Before the operation, the MGB had ordered an investigation into small-scale mining within the Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement contract area of FCF Minerals Corp., which has not yet developed the area. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



# Illegal mining in Nueva Vizcaya town shut down

By [Eireene Jairee Gomez](#) August 6, 2021

The [Department of Environment and Natural Resources'](#) Mines and [Geosciences Bureau](#) (DENR-MGB) on Thursday said it has shut down illegal mining activities in Quezon town in Nueva Vizcaya province.

In a statement, the DENR-MGB said various illegal mining equipment such as ball mills, shafting, diesel engines and pulleys were dismantled during a series of operations conducted last July 27 to 29 at Barangay Runruno.

"In the case of illegal small-scale mining, miners tend to dig and drill with no proper control on extractive operations. These unregulated mining activities pose dangers to the environment and to human lives," DENR Secretary [Roy Cimatu](#) said.

The joint operations were carried out by MGB-Region 2, DENR Region 2, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office-Nueva Vizcaya, Community Environment and Natural Resources Office-Aritao, National Bureau of Investigation-Region 2, Philippine [National Police](#) and Armed Forces of the [Philippines](#), in coordination with mining firm [FCF Minerals Corp.](#)

According to MGB-Region 2 Director [Mario Ancheta](#), the absence of documents, permits or authority in the conduct of mining operations and the transport of minerals/mineral products and byproducts will be considered as prima facie evidence of illegal mining.

"This shall cause the seizure of the mineral and byproducts and the tools, conveyances and equipment used in the commission of the offense in favor of the government," Ancheta said.

Prior to the operations, MGB-Region 2 directed an investigation of ongoing small-scale mining operations within the Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement contract area of FCF.

The MGB said the mining firm has not yet utilized or developed the area.

Given its location, Ancheta pointed out, the mining area cannot be declared as a "Minahang Bayan" site.

Furthermore, he said, despite constant dialogues and warnings, the small-scale miners, who were identified to be illegal settlers, continued to defy the MGB's order to vacate and leave the area.

The MGB-Region 2 served cease-and-desist orders against the illegal mining activities last July 7 to 9.

"I have previously proposed to these illegal miners to look for other areas that can be applied for as Minahang Bayan since this area is prohibited. However, they continue to extract the area," Ancheta said.

Charges will be filed against the miners for violation of [Republic Act](#) (RA) 7942 or the "[Philippine Mining Act](#) of 1995" and RA 7076 or the "People's [Small-Scale Mining Act](#) of 1991".



The law states, "No small-scale mining shall be undertaken outside a Minahang Bayan and that no entity shall engage in small-scale mining without a small-scale mining contract."

The MGB-Region 2 has been monitoring the activities in the area since a landslide occurred on Nov. 13, 2020.

It previously recommended to the local government of Quezon to relocate the illegal settlers.



## Mga iligal na minahan sa Vizcaya ipinasara ng DENR



August 5, 2021 @ 7:00 PM 12 hours ago

MANILA, Philippines – Dahil sa iligal na pagmimina pinangunahan ng Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ang paglansag sa iba't-ibang gamit sa paglabag sa pamimina sa magkakasunod na operasyon ng isinagawa laban sa small-scale mining activities sa bayan ng Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya nong Hulyo 27-29.

Sa ulat ng DENR, ang joint operation ay isinagawa ng MGB-Region 2, DENR Region 2, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office-Nueva Vizcaya, Community Environment and Natural Resources Office-Aritao, National Bureau of Investigation-Region 2, Philippine National Police at Armed Forces of the Philippines sa pakikipagtulungan ng FCF Minerals Corporation kung saan ay sinira ng mga ito ang mga gamit tulad ng ball mills, shafting, diesel engines, pulleys at iba pang ginagamit sa illegal-small mining activities sa Barangay Runruno.

“In the case of illegal small-scale mining, miners tend to dig and drill with no proper control on extractive operations. These unregulated mining activities pose dangers to the environment, and even to human lives,” saad ni DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu.

Kaugnay nito sa kanyang panig, sinabi naman ni MGB-Region 2 Director Mario A. Ancheta na ang kawalan ng dokumento, permit o pagpapatunay upang magsagawa ng mining operations at pag-transport ng minerals/mineral products at by-products ay ikinokonsiderang prima facie evidence sa iligal na pagmimina.

“This shall cause the seizure/confiscation of the minerals/mineral products and by-products and the tools, conveyances, and equipment used in the commission of the offense in favor of the government,” paliwanag ni Ancheta.

Bago ang operasyon ay nagsagawa ng imbestigasyon ang MGB-Region 2 hinggil sa nagaganap na small-scale mining operations sa Financial or Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) contract area ng mining firm na FCF Minerals Corporation.

Ayon sa MGB, hindi pa nadedebelop ng nasabing kumpanya ang naturang lugar.

Binigyang-diin pa ni Ancheta na hindi idinedeclarang Minahang Bayan site ang pinagmiminahang lugar.

Aniya, kahit na may naganap na magkakasunod na pakikipag-usap at babala sa small-scale miners na natukoy din na illegal settlers, ay patuloy na binabalewala ng mga ito ang kautusan ng MGB na ibakante at iwanan ang lugar.

Naglabas na rin ng cease-and-desist orders ang MGB-Region 2 laban sa illegal mining activities noong Hulyo 7 hanggang 9.





Inihahanda na ang mga kasong paglabag sa Republic Act (RA) 7942 o ang Philippine Mining Act of 1995 at RA 7076 o ang People's Small-Scale Mining Act of 1991 laban sa mga minero.

Nakasaad sa implementing rules and regulations ng RA 7076 na: "No small-scale mining shall be undertaken outside a Minahang Bayan and that no entity shall engage in small-scale mining without a small-scale mining contract." **Santi Celario**



## Over 700 bamboos planted to prevent flood, soil erosion in Catanduanes riverbanks

Published August 5, 2021, 1:13 PM

by [Richa Noriega](#)

More than 700 bamboos were planted by the members of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to prevent flood and soil erosion in the riverbanks of Pandan, Catanduanes on Wednesday, Aug. 4.

Personnel of the PCG Station Catanduanes have participated in a bamboo planting activity, initiated by the Department of environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) Catanduanes, in the riverbanks of Barangay Canlubi, Pandan, Catanduanes.



More than 700 bamboos were planted by the members of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to prevent flooding and soil erosion in the riverbanks of Pandan, Catanduanes on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021. (Photo courtesy of the PCG)



More than 700 bamboos were planted by the members of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to prevent flooding and soil erosion in the riverbanks of Pandan, Catanduanes on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021. (Photo courtesy of the PCG)

The PCG said the bamboos help prevent flood and soil erosion, as well as balance the oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The bamboos are also a highly encouraged substitute for household furniture and scaffolding.



More than 700 bamboos were planted by the members of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to prevent flooding and soil erosion in the riverbanks of Pandan, Catanduanes on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021. (Photo courtesy of the PCG)

The initiative was made successful in cooperation with personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and local government unit.



# Parañaque kicks off cleanup drive

SM Prime Holdings Estate Management Group, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), local government of Parañaque City and the communities in Barangays Tambo and Don Bosco, recently held simultaneous drives to clean up the city's rivers and waterways.

The "environmental *bayanihan*" initiative netted four truckloads of vegetation and 57 sacks of garbage, each weighing approx. 20kgs. per sack, and was participated in by the Barangay Tambo Environmental Police, DoLE-TUPAD, DENR *Estero* Rangers, Barangay volunteers, and volunteers from SM's security, maintenance and estate management

personnel.

The clean-up drive is one of SM's way of supporting the Manila Bay Rehabilitation program by partnering

with local and national governments to ensure that waterways are kept clean as they have a significant impact on large bodies of water such as the Manila Bay.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SM



# DENR, nababahala matapos pansamantalang pinatigil ang cremation sa buong Panay ng mga namatay sa COVID-19

By [Bombo Radyo Iloilo](#) - August 5, 2021 | 11:26 AM

ILOILO CITY – Itinuturing ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na'urgent' ang pangangailangan ng Iloilo City na magrenta ng refrigerated vans upang lagyan ng mga bangkay ng mga namatay sa COVID-19 sa lungsod.

Sa eksklusibong panayam ng Bombo Radyo Iloilo kay Engr. Noel Hechanova, pinuno ng City Environment and Natural Resources Office, sinabi nito na malaki ang epekto ng dalawang linggong pagsuspendi sa operasyon ng nag-iisang Crematorium sa buong Panay.

Ayon kay Hechanova, nahihirapan ang lungsod sa paghahanap ng mga refrigerated vans dahil karamihan sa mga ito ay nilalagyan ng pagkain.

Sa kabila nito, sinisikap ng lungsod na makapaghanap ng tulong sa pamamagitan ng pakikipag-ugnayan sa ibang local government unit.

Source: <https://www.bomboradyo.com/denr-nababahala-matapos-pansamantalang-pinatigil-ang-cremation-sa-buong-panay-ng-mga-namatay-sa-covid-19/>



# Haribon joins call to junk reclamation in Dumaguete

By [Frederick M. Nasiad](#) August 5, 2021

[Haribon Foundation](#) joins the call for the junking of the proposed 174-hectare "[smart](#) city" reclamation project in [Dumaguete City](#), Negros Oriental.

The foundation said it stands with the leading scientists from [Silliman University](#) who claimed that the proposed reclamation project will bury the biodiversity-rich coastal habitats of Dumaguete.

"We support the call to junk the 'smart city' reclamation project and for the local government to reassess the impacts of reclamation on biodiversity and its ecosystem services. We are concerned that a reclamation project that promises to build infrastructures, such as high-rise hotels and even a yacht club, will further marginalize fishers and their communities that are dependent on the resources provided by the MPAs and the coastal habitats of Dumaguete," Haribon said in a statement.

Recent information suggests deeper areas off the coast of Dumaguete City between 30 to 90 meters deep harbor a high diversity of fish. While these areas offer fewer hiding places and less shelter than shallow reefs, 60 to 80 percent of fish found here are important to fisheries.

Fish stocks are shared and know no political boundaries, known as ecological connectivity. This irreversible ecological damage will have a ripple effect on dozens of other marine protected areas (MPAs) along the Negros Oriental coast, Siquijor and Bohol, as well as DENR-managed MPAs such as the [Apo Island](#) Protected Landscape and Seascape and Tañon Strait Protected Seascape.

Dr. [Angel Alcala](#), national scientist and former [Haribon Board of Trustee](#) and scientific advisor, led the MPAs movement in the [Philippines](#). This movement started in Dumaguete City during his stint as the lead marine scientist in the [Silliman University Marine Laboratory](#).

Alcala and his team established the first community-based MPA in Apo Island and became one of the most successful MPAs in terms of tourism and fisheries management. It continues to be a beacon of hope as one of the 228 Key Biodiversity Areas in the country.

According to scientists, Dumaguete City's four MPAs will cease to exist once the proposed "Smart" city reclamation project is approved. MPAs provide refuge for biodiversity including fishes to thrive, reproduce and be protected from human activities within its boundaries, but will still allow them to move in and out while providing eggs and fishes to other areas.

These MPAs are legally protected through a city ordinance enacted by the Sangguniang Bayan of Dumaguete that localizes the implementation of [Republic Act](#) (RA) 8550 or the "Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998" and its internal rules and regulations, RA 10654. Prior to their approval, these MPAs went through a lengthy process that involved consultations with several stakeholders of the city.



Reclamation projects alter coastal topography and will change local water movement, adding to the imminent problem of sea-level rise in low-lying areas. Further, the development of artificial islands requires tens of millions of filling materials, which will be sourced through quarrying on land and/or dredging the seafloor. These are seen to result in permanent environmental damage to the source areas.

While the effects may not be seen in the immediate area, the repercussions will be felt elsewhere through coastal erosion given the interconnectedness of ecosystems.

Source: [https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/05/news/regions/haribon-joins-call-to-junk-reclamation-in-dumaguete/1809685?fbclid=IwAR17CUYsId5E8MufSSfyt\\_qOjIpQBOt\\_3VimKBy2DNZuEpgeww38ORx8pn8](https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/08/05/news/regions/haribon-joins-call-to-junk-reclamation-in-dumaguete/1809685?fbclid=IwAR17CUYsId5E8MufSSfyt_qOjIpQBOt_3VimKBy2DNZuEpgeww38ORx8pn8)



# Fishermen witness rare deer being chased by sharks in N. Samar

Published August 5, 2021, 8:42 AM

by [Marie Tonette Marticio](#)

TACLOBAN CITY – An endangered mature male Philippine deer (bugsok) was rescued by two fishermen while being chased by sharks in Lapinig, Northern Samar.

Dennis Ariño, Senior Ecosystems Management Specialist/Chief, Conservation and Development Section of the Community Environment and Natural Resources in Pambujan, Northern Samar, shared that two fishermen found the deer swimming in the coastal water of Lapinig on August 3 afternoon.

“Nakita siya sa unahan pa ng isang maliit na island (Canawayon Island) about 4 kms from the Poblacion. Paglapit nila may nakasunod sa deer na dalawang pating,” Ariño said.

He added that the deer was exhausted from swimming but it was found to be in good health condition with only noticeable minor scratches on its antlers.

Ariño was surprised to see the deer in the waters because according to him, its habitat is not in lowlands particularly in coastal areas. He said that it is the first time that they have seen a Philippine deer in the area.

The deer measures 1.20 m in length and .80 m in height weighing roughly 30kgs. While they are known to be fast runners, they can also swim long distances at about 15mph up to 10 miles.

Their strong leg muscles and coat help them float, swim, and even cross oceans if needed to look for food or seek shelter.

Ariño said there are theories that it was able to escape from captivity but it did not come out in the course of their investigation with the Lapinig Municipal Station.

“Yung isang theory is disturbed po ang habitat nila sa forest. Sabi ni PCMSgt Juliata ng Lapinig MPS posible daw dahil sa madalas na encounter ng government troops and NPA. ‘Yung sa akin naman baka migration ito result of climate change. Kapag migration po nakatakot ‘yun,” he explained.

According to Ariño, the local government of Lapinig opted to adopt the deer through their “Adopt a Wildlife Program.”

“We are looking for a donor of a female deer for them to breed. Capable and qualified naman po ang LGU doon sa pag adopt,” he said.

He noted that had they not been able to save the deer, it could have been sold at P300/kg. The Philippine deer is considered an endangered species under DENR Administrative Order 2019-09.

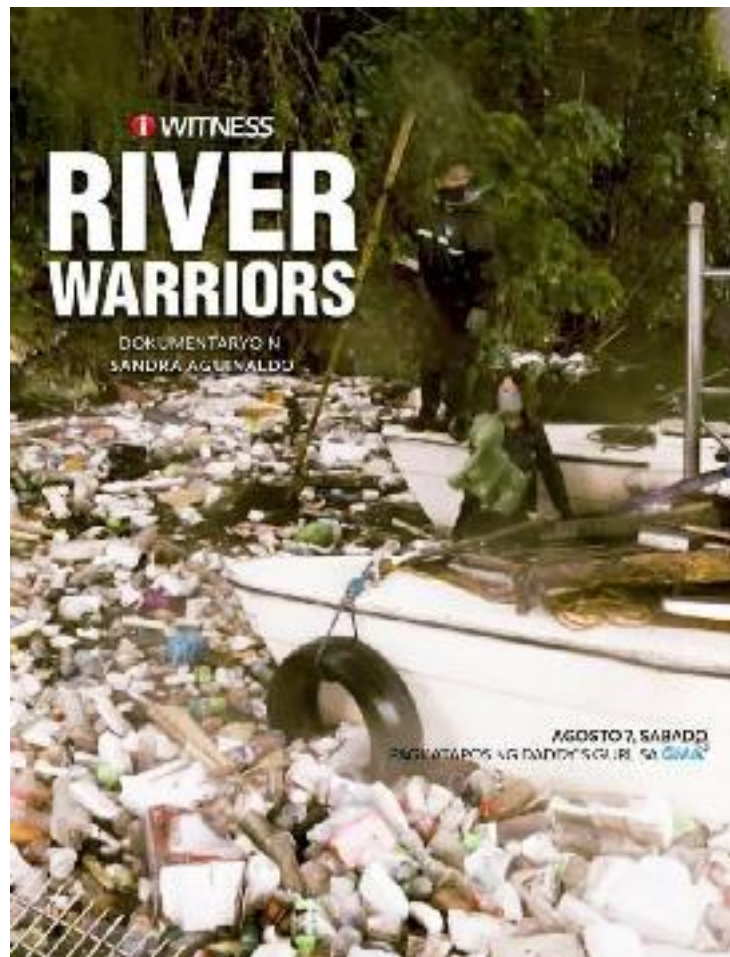
Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2021/08/05/fishermen-witness-rare-deer-being-chased-by-sharks-in-n-samar/>





# 'River Warriors', dokumentaryo ni Sandra Aguinaldo, ngayong Sabado sa 'I-Witness'

Published August 5, 2021 7:26pm



I-Witness: River Warriors

Host: Sandra Aguinaldo

Airing Date: Aug 7, 2021

Matapos ng bagyo, sa panahon ng habagat, ilang tao ang puspusang kumakayod para linisin ang maruruming estero ng Pasig at San Juan. Sa Baseco beach sa Maynila, abala rin ang ilan sa pagpupulot ng tambak na kalat na dinala ng ulan at alon. Lahat ng klase ng basura ay pinupulot nila--plastic bottles, sirang tsinelas, Styrofoam food container, lumang kasangkapan, pati na rin patay na hayop.





Si Angelita Imperio, nagsimula bilang isang volunteer noong 1997 sa programang Piso para sa Pasig ni dating First Lady Ming Ramos. Kalaunan, naging malaking parte na ng buhay niya ang paglilinis ng mga estero at maruming pampang ng Baseco. Nakapagtapos ng kursong Education si Angelita pero hindi nakakuha ng board exam dahil na rin sa kahirapan. Lublob man sa burak o napalilibutan ng gabundok na basura, ipinagmamalaki pa rin niya ang pagiging isang river warrior kahit pa maituturing itong isa sa pinakamaruming trabaho. Kuwento niya, nakapagpatapos siya ng anak sa kolehiyo dahil sa trabahong ito. Para kay Angelita, dedikasyon sa pangangalaga sa kalikasan ang isa sa mga dahilan kung bakit nananatili siyang isang river warrior. Bago mag pandemya, tinuturuan niya ang mga bata sa kanilang lugar kung paano maglinis sa tapat ng kanilang bahay. Batid kasi niya, kailangang matutunan ng bagong henerasyon ang kahalagahan ng pagtatapon ng basura sa tamang lugar.



Ngayong Sabado sa I-Witness, lulusong si Sandra Aguinaldo sa itinuturing na isa sa pinakamaruming estero sa bansa para samahan ang mga taong gumagawa ng trabahong hindi kayang sikmurain ng iba. Abangan ang “River Warriors” sa I-Witness ngayong Sabado, August 7, 10:15pm sa GMA.

### English Translation

During the monsoon season, after a typhoon hit the country, a group of people are busy clearing the trash floating in the tributaries of Pasig and San Juan. On Baseco beach, a few men and women are also picking up sack loads of garbage that has been washed ashore. They are faced with the tough job of picking up the filth indiscriminately left by others –from plastic bottles, discarded slippers, Styrofoam food containers, broken appliances and furniture, even dead animals.



Angelita Imperio began as a volunteer in 1997 in a river clean-up program by former First Lady Ming Ramos called “Piso para sa Pasig”. Eventually, cleaning the river and the beach of Baseco has become a huge part of her life. Angelita has a degree in Education but due to poverty, she was unable to take the board exam. Submerged waist deep in a river of garbage or surrounded with trash, Angelita says she is still proud of being a river warrior. Some may consider this to be one of the filthiest jobs to have but she says she was able to put her eldest child through college because of this. Angelita says her dedication to the environment is one of the reasons she remains a river warrior. Before the pandemic, she is teaching kids in her area how to clean outside their homes and instill in them the value of disposing trash responsibly.

This Saturday in I-Witness, Sandra Aguinaldo wades into what is considered to be one of the dirtiest tributaries in the country to join those who toil in a job that is unbearable for most people. I-Witness: “River Warriors” airs this Saturday, August 7, 10:15pm on GMA.#

# A world of hurt: Climate disasters in 2021 raise alarm over food security

Human-driven climate change is fueling weather extremes — from record drought to massive floods — that are hammering key agricultural regions around the world.



The floods in East Africa have left thousands displaced, hundreds lives lost, crops have been destroyed and livestock dead. With the current Covid-19 crisis and locusts invasion, flooding is expected to exacerbate the food security situation in the country. Image: [Greenpeace](#).

[Sue Branford & Glenn Scherer, Mongabay.com](#)

Aug. 5, 2021

In July, a [video](#) went viral on social media in Argentina showing people walking across what looks like a desert. But it isn't a desert. This is the bed of the Paraná River, part of the second-largest river system in South America. Normally the stream rises in Brazil and reaches the sea via the River Plate, draining a vast watershed covering all of Paraguay, southern Brazil and northern Argentina. Normally the water volume flowing to the Atlantic [roughly equals](#) that of the Mississippi River.

What's happening now is not normal. The drying up of large stretches of river comes as the most severe drought since 1944 afflicts the region. No relief is expected in the short term. According to [forecasts](#) from Argentina's Ministry of Public Works, the lack of rain will last for at least another three months.

Besides damaging crops, the drought also means barge-hauled grains [can't get to market cheaply](#), forcing Argentina to support commodities transport with \$10.4 million, and costing the nation's grain farmers and exporters [\\$315 million](#). It's likely consumers will ultimately foot the bill.

The Paraná region is experiencing "a veritable environmental holocaust," says [Rafael Colombo](#), a member of the Argentinian Association of Environmental Lawyers.

The multiple causes, he states, include "a complex and diversified series of anthropomorphic interventions, associated with the expansion of agro-industrial, ranching, forest, river and mining extractivism over the last 50 years." Add to that the impact of global human-caused climate change.

## A world of hurt

Extreme weather impacts can be expected to dot various parts of the planet every year, but the Paraná watershed drought isn't an outlier in 2021. Instead, it represents the new normal as major regional bread baskets around the globe are assaulted by unusually high temperatures that exacerbate simultaneous record droughts, bringing disastrous wildfires. Floods, too, are unprecedented this year: While the Paraná endured record drought, the neighboring Amazon watershed in Manaus, Brazil, was battered by [unprecedented June deluges](#).



These planet-wide events all combined are having a detrimental impact on crops and livestock, and though it is too early to calculate the full cost, the world will likely see [significant price hikes](#) in coming months on everything from tomatoes to bread to beef.

“Unprecedented” looks to be the theme best describing 2021’s extreme weather events: In mid-July, China’s Henan province, one of the country’s most populous regions, was hit by a year’s worth of rain — 640 millimetres (more than 2 feet) — in just three days, a phenomenon “[unseen in the last 1,000 years](#).”

At least [71 people died](#) and 1.4 million people fled the floods, even as China braces for more heavy rain. The deluge also [impacted 972,000 hectares](#) (2.4 million acres) of cropland, and — while much of that region’s grain crop had been harvested previously — processing, storage and transportation of summer grains could be affected, with floodwaters damaging flour factories.

China isn’t alone. In late July, parts of India saw [594 mm \(23 inches\)](#) of rain in just days, while Manila and outlying provinces in [the Philippines](#) were inundated by torrential rains, causing mass evacuations and crop damage.

*There have been back-to-back droughts which have pushed communities right to the very edge of starvation.*

**David Beasley, executive director, World Food Programme**

Extreme heat waves and drought have smashed records across the US West, from southern California to Nevada and Oregon. As the unprecedented mega drought deepens, California’s water regulators this week took a highly unusual step: [forbidding thousands of farmers](#) from extracting water from major rivers and streams for irrigation. The drought is surely going to be bad news for spaghetti lovers: California grows more than 90 per cent of America’s canned tomatoes and a third of the world’s supply. Expect much higher prices and “[cue the tomato hoarding](#).”

Meanwhile, [91 wildfires](#) are currently raging across the US, devastating ecosystems and infrastructure. Three million acres have burned so far this year, with the fire season far from over, while during the same period last year only 2.1 million acres burned. Western US climate change-induced mega fires are also having adverse agricultural commodities impacts, with farmers and ranchers now saddled with skyrocketing fire insurance rates, often increasing by tens of thousands of dollars. “[[The trend has sent shock waves through California’s agricultural regions](#),” says online environmental news service *Grist*. Those exorbitant insurance rates could push some farms out of business, or make agriculture too risky to insure.

Farther east, in Colorado and Utah, cattle ranchers are feeling the pain too. As their drought worsens, many have reluctantly [decided to cull their herds](#). “Everyone is gonna be selling their cows, so it’s probably smarter now to do it, while the price is up, before the market gets flooded,” [said](#) Buzz Bates, a rancher from Oab, Utah.

The West’s drought has also created ideal conditions for grasshopper eggs to hatch, leading to widespread infestation and crop loss. “I can only describe grasshoppers in expletives,” [said](#) one Oregon farmer. “They are a scourge of the Earth ... They just destroy the land, destroy the crops.”

### ***The spectre of global hunger***

Drought this year is exacerbating hunger in some of Earth’s poorest countries. Southern Madagascar is experiencing its worst drought in four decades. Maliha, 38 years old and a single mother of eight, [told Reliefweb](#): “Since the rain stopped, the children are not eating regularly.



I give them whatever I can find, like cactus leaves. With this diet, they have diarrhea and nausea, but we have no choice. At least it doesn't kill them."

According to World Food Programme Executive Director David Beasley, the food crisis in Madagascar has been [building](#) for years: "There have been back-to-back droughts which have pushed communities right to the very edge of starvation." More than 1 million Madagascans have been left "food insecure," without access to "sufficient, safe and nutritious food," he [said](#).

He's emphatic as to the reason: "This is not because of war or conflict; this is because of climate change."

As disaster follows disaster, some evoke tales of the 10 plagues found in the Old Testament, sent by God to punish humanity for its evil. Not even the plague of locusts is missing: Just a year ago, the Greater Horn of Africa and Yemen suffered [the largest desert locust outbreak](#) in 25 years, triggered by record rains. In Ethiopia alone more than 356,000 tonnes of cereals were lost, leaving almost 1 million people food insecure.

### **Commodities impacted worldwide**

Extreme weather continues [slamming crops](#) across the world at a time when food prices are already [near the highest in a decade](#). The list goes on: Flooding in China's key pork-producing region has raised the threat of animal disease. Devastating rains in the EU are raising fears of widespread fungal diseases in grains. And in the High Plains along the US-Canada border, grains and livestock are at risk as [predicted deepening drought](#) keeps commodities brokers and farmers on edge. Russia, another global bread basket, is also hot and dry, and [wheat crop expectations have fallen](#).

*There's no other country in the world that has that kind of influence on the world market conditions — what happens in Brazil affects everyone.*

**Michael Sheridan, director of sourcing and shared value, Intelligentsia Coffee**

Brazil is one of the most important agricultural exporters in the world. But [prolonged drought](#) there is causing concerns for 2021's [second corn crop](#). Drought and rare freezing weather are hurting coffee-growing regions too, which are suffering some of their coldest weather in 25 years. On July 29, a wide area of Brazil even [saw snow](#). (Climate chaos, while it produces substantially more heat records, also sometimes generates extreme cold.) The coffee harvest will be damaged. World coffee prices [are rising](#).

Other crops could be impacted, as Brazil is the planet's biggest exporter of sugar, orange juice and soybeans. "There's no other country in the world that has that kind of influence on the world market conditions — what happens in Brazil affects everyone," Michael Sheridan, director of sourcing and shared value at Intelligentsia Coffee, a Chicago-based roaster and retailer, [told](#) Bloomberg.

### **Feast or famine: Profiting from disaster**

As elsewhere, Brazil's climate disasters are regionalised, only damaging harvests in some places, but not others. In unaffected areas, farmers are doing well, even better than expected because world commodity prices have climbed, partly because of droughts around the planet. And as is so often the case in the commodities market, one farmer benefits from another's disaster, though the big commodities traders have the versatility and economic power to weather whiplash weather — at least for now.

The Brazilian government's statistics authority, IBGE, is expecting a "[record-breaking harvest](#) of grains, cereals and oilseeds in 2021." Agribusiness outside the drought-affected Paraná region is jubilant. Maurilio Biagi Filho, whose family owns vast sugar plantations, says that it is "very rare" for high agricultural prices to coincide with record production. "When that happens, it's extraordinary," he adds.



A similar phenomenon is evident in the US, where the fortunes of two very different corn belts have emerged. The US Southeast is experiencing “great summer weather” (cool and wet), while the Northwest is facing “a terrible drought” (hot/dry weather). “The crux of the matter is the crop is being damaged in the West, and improving in the East,” [comments one farming media](#) source.

This mixed economic picture comes with a caveat: As 2021 unfolds and the global climate crisis deepens year-on-year, [forecasts](#) say fewer and fewer farmers may benefit, with extreme weather disasters and failed harvests proliferating.

In the 1990s, a Woods Hole Research Center scientist, describing impending climate chaos, put it this way: “Think of a pot of cool water on the stove. Add heat to the pot and keep adding it. The water will start to move, swirling in increasingly erratic and intensifying patterns. Small bubbles arise, then bigger bubbles appear as you add energy to the system, until you’re at a rolling boil. That’s a good metaphor for global climate change: as emissions rise, extreme weather events pop up more often, randomly and unpredictably everywhere.”

### ***Climate chaos breeds food insecurity and political instability***

The downside to the current hike in commodity prices is already becoming clear for many: With millions of poor people hit by climate disasters, governments in financially strapped countries are having to provide food relief. “Food inflation is the last thing governments need right now,” Carlos Mera, an analyst at Rabobank, [told](#) the *Financial Times*.

Higher food prices often generate political unrest, even in countries where dissent is firmly repressed. In early July, [protesters took to the streets](#) in southwestern Iran, chanting anti-regime slogans and demanding greater access to water for drinking, for farmlands and their cattle.

But the climate crisis shows no sign of easing: On June 22, Nuwaiseeb, Kuwait, recorded temperatures of 53.2° Celsius (127.7° Fahrenheit). In neighboring Iraq and Iran, temperatures didn’t lag far behind. All-time records were broken in Turkey too (where wildfires are [incinerating farm animals](#)), and in both Northern Ireland and northern Japan. Moscow was hit by [a historic heat wave](#) in June, with temperatures soaring to 34°C (93°F), a 120-year record. These heat waves are bad news for global food supplies and prices — and for national security.

High food prices, [caused partly by climate change-driven drought](#), are believed to have been a key factor behind the unrest that [spread across](#) a swath of the Middle East and North Africa in 2011, generating the Arab Spring.

Prescient journalist Ross Gelbspan, [writing in 1997](#), warned the world of the perpetual “coming state of emergency,” a deepening and disruptive climate change abyss — an extreme weather maelstrom into which food production systems, whole populations, governments and countries would fall and fail, bringing hunger, human misery, civil unrest and war.

*We have to breed crops for conditions that we don’t even know right now what they are going to be.*

Colleen Doherty, associate professor of biochemistry, North Carolina University

### Climate breakdown

The consensus is growing: Today, almost all scientists and policymakers (besides the politicians aligned with fossil fuel interests) agree that the underlying cause of the current climate crisis is a hundred years — less than a nanosecond in the planet’s history — of human activity, [pumping billions of tonnes](#) of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.



Recently, a draft report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), scheduled to be published at the beginning of next year, [was obtained](#) by the AFP news agency. AFP says the report reads as “by far, the most comprehensive catalogue ever assembled of how climate change is upending our world.” The IPCC warns that the devastating impacts of global warming will be painfully obvious before a child born today turns 30.

Just like Rafael Colombo, the Argentine environmental lawyer, the IPCC points to a witch’s brew of anthropomorphic influences: greenhouse gas emissions, degradation of land under intensive agriculture, deforestation, overuse of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, overgrazing, and over extraction of water for farming and other uses. But still, emissions rise along with population and the reckless use of resources.

### ***An urgent need for ‘transformational change’***

The draft IPCC report [states](#): “We need transformational change operating on processes and behaviors at all levels: individual, communities, business, institutions and governments. We must redefine our way of life and consumption.”

Ariel Ortiz-Bobea, associate professor at the Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University, says vastly improved farming techniques are the way forward. He told Mongabay there must be “greater investments in R&D and ‘climate-smart’ agriculture ... to compensate for the climate change ‘headwind.’” He emphasised, “These investments need to be done now — or yesterday.” Generating higher output from “climate-smart plants” would allow humanity to “sustain historical growth rates in [crop] production without having to increase inputs.”

Colleen Doherty, an associate professor of biochemistry at North Carolina University, takes a similar approach, suggesting that “climate-smart” agriculture could be achieved partly by creating far more resilient plants. “We have to breed crops for conditions that we don’t even know right now what they are going to be. Things are changing so rapidly that we need to be able to anticipate what the problems are before they happen,” she said, adding with cautious optimism: “We’ve barely touched the potential of plants.”

If such an approach is to work, it must deliver much more than improved technology has achieved in the last couple of decades. A recent paper, “[Anthropogenic climate change has slowed global agricultural productivity growth](#),” shows that climate change has wiped out seven years of improvements in agricultural productivity over the past 60 years. Ortiz-Bobea, the paper’s lead author, said that “the slowdown effect” may well intensify, as “global agriculture is growing increasingly vulnerable to climate change” and “global warming is accelerating.”

A very different method for confronting the crisis is laid out by the regenerative agriculture movement. Its proponents are skeptical of scientists’ capacity to breed more resilient plants. “Despite billions of dollars being spent on research and media hype there is not one major crop that has benefited from genetically engineered modifications to make them significantly more resilient to drought,” André Leu, international director of Regeneration International, told Mongabay, though biotechnology companies and researchers do claim some progress in that field of development.

Answers will not emerge from laboratories, he argues, but by working with rural communities who have acquired an unrivaled knowledge of local ecosystems through centuries of experience. “There are numerous published studies showing that increasing agro-biodiversity through a mix of crop species and varieties, along with farmer-led participatory breeding, increases drought and extreme climate weather resilience,” he said. “These systems are now working globally on every arable continent.” Moreover, advocates say regenerative agriculture can “[substantially mitigate climate change](#)” by sequestering significant greenhouse gas emissions.





As yet, neither approach is translating into the “transformational change” that the draft IPCC report calls for, largely because governments worldwide have yet to act aggressively to address the scale of the catastrophe unfolding planetwide at breakneck speed. And few analysts hold out much hope this will change at the vital [COP26](#) climate summit this November in Scotland.

Meanwhile, the situation continues to deteriorate: [Forecasts](#) released this month by the International Energy Agency predict the world will record “the highest levels of carbon dioxide output in human history” this year.

Many scientists and policymakers fear that the very survival of the human species is now at risk. The draft IPCC report warns: “Life on Earth can recover from a drastic climate shift by evolving into new species and creating new ecosystems. Humans cannot.”

*This story was published with permission from [Mongabay.com](#).*

06 AUGUST 2021, FRIDAY



# NEWS ALERTS

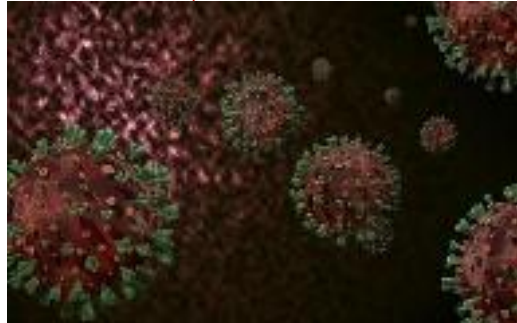
# COVID-19 NEWS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



# PH Covid-19 recovery count hits 1,532,494 with 4.3K new survivors

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor August 5, 2021, 5:23 pm



**MANILA** – An additional 4,343 patients have beaten the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), pushing the country’s overall recovery count to 1,532,494 on Thursday.

The Department of Health (DOH), in its latest Covid-19 bulletin, said recoveries account for 94.1 percent of the total 1,627,816 infections since the start of the pandemic last year.

Another 8,127 new cases and 196 new deaths were also reported. These figures bring the overall tally of active cases to 66,895 and the death toll to 28,427.

The latest figures showed 94.6 percent of the active cases are mild, 1 percent are asymptomatic, 1.9 percent are severe, 1.30 percent are moderate, and 1.1 percent are in critical condition.

“There were 135 duplicates removed from the total case count as 125 of these are recoveries. Moreover, 15 cases previously tagged as recovered were reclassified as deaths after final validation,” it said.

DOH data on Aug. 3, likewise, showed that 17.3 percent of 56,035 who were tested turned out positive for Covid-19.

One laboratory was not operational on Aug. 3 and three laboratories were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System (CDRS).

Based on data in the last 14 days, the three non-reporting laboratories contribute, on average, 0.7 percent of samples tested and 1.8 percent of positive individuals.

To date, 60 percent of 3,700 intensive care unit beds, 53 percent of 19,600 isolation beds, 53 percent of 12,600 ward beds, and 41 percent of 2,900 ventilators dedicated to patients with Covid-19 are in use nationwide.

Meanwhile, 58 percent of 1,100 intensive care unit beds, 52 percent of 4,600 isolation beds, 50 percent of 3,600 ward beds, and 41 percent of 1,000 ventilators reserved for patients with Covid-19 are being used in Metro Manila. **(PNA)**



# COVID-19 cases sa bansa 1.62-M na isang araw bago ang ECQ 3.0 sa NCR

(Philstar.com) - August 5, 2021 - 4:00pm



Individuals hoping to get inoculated with COVID-19 vaccine flock to a mall in Antipolo City on Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Nakapagtala ang Department of Health (DOH) ng [x] bagong infection ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Huwebes, kung kaya't nasa [x] milyon na sumatutal ang nahahawaan nito sa bansa.

Batay sa mga bagong nakalap na datos ng Kagawaran ng Kalusugan, narito ang bagong mga pasok na datos para araw na ito:

- **Lahat ng kaso:** 1,627,816
- **Nagpapagaling pa:** 66,895, o 4.1% ng total infections
- **Kagagaling lang:** 4,343, dahilan para maging 1,532,494 na lahat ng gumagaling
- **Kamamatay lang:** 196, na siyang nag-aakyat sa total local death toll sa 28,427

## 116 bagong Delta variant cases

- Nadagdagan pa lalo nang ng 116 kaso ng mas nakahahawang COVID-19 Delta variant cases ang Pilipinas, ayon sa bagong batch ng whole genome sequencing na inilabas ng DOH, UP-Philippine Genome Center at UP-National Institutes of Health ngayong araw. Dahil dito, umabot na sa 331 ang Delta variant cases sa Pilipinas.
- Ngayong araw din naitala ang pinakamataas na bilang ng active COVID-19 cases sa Pilipinas (66,895) sa nakalipas na 95 araw. Huling mas mataas ang bilang diyan noong ika-3 ng Mayo.
- [Maaari na uling ihatid-sundo](#) ng mga non-authorized persons outside residence (APOR) ang mga APOR oras na ipatupad ang enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) simula Biyernes, paliwanag ni PNP chief Gen. Guillermo Eleazar. Gayunpaman, may mga dokumentong kailangang tiyakin ang magmamaneho para sa naturang tao.



- Ipinatutugis naman ngayon ni Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chairperson Benhur Abalos sa National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) ang mga nagpapakalat ng fake news na magbibigay lang ng lockdown ayuda para sa mga bakunado laban sa COVID-19. Aniya, makatatanggap ng P1,000 hanggang P4,000 ang bawat pamilya sa ECQ areas gaya ng Metro Manila bakunado man o hindi.
- [Umabot naman na sa 10 milyon](#) ang nakakukuha ng kumpletong doses ng COVID-19 vaccine sa Pilipinas, isang araw bago magbalik ang ECQ sa Metro Manila, pagmamalaki ni presidential spokesperson Harry Roque.
- Umabot na sa 199.46 milyon ang tinatamaan ng COVID-19 sa buong daigdig, [ayon sa huling datos ng World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#). Sa bilang na 'yan, patay na ang 4.24 milyong katao.

— James Relativo



## Metro lockdown commences

The government allocated P13 billion to fund cash grants from savings, unobligated appropriations and excess revenues.

Published 5 hours ago on August 6, 2021 12:50 AM

By [MJ Blancaflor](#) @tribunephil\_MJB



Checkpoints within Metro Manila were activated on midnight to restrict starting today, Friday, the mobility of people as the capital region reverted to the strictest lockdown status set by the government.

On Thursday, a day before the imposition of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) from 6 to 20 August, Malacañang assured the public that the government is prepared to implement stricter curbs in the metro.

The hard lockdown was imposed on the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) to stem a possible surge being blamed on the more transmissible Delta variant of the virus.

The private group OCTA Research said Metro Manila may see as many as 30,000 cases daily in recommending a two-week lockdown. The Department of Health, while not supporting OCTA's interpretation of Covid-19 data, has conceded the need for a stricter quarantine.

"We are ready, but we call on the heads of households not to rely on the national government, and to declare their own lockdowns among themselves," presidential spokesperson Secretary Harry Roque said.

Residents in the National Capital Region (NCR) have been barred from traveling outside their cities and the lone municipality of Pateros during the ECQ period.

### Exemptions

Exempted from restrictions are health professionals and other essential workers — or authorized persons outside their residences (APOR) — who will travel for work-related purposes.

Also allowed to travel are those who have medical emergencies and those who have to take their Covid-19 vaccines in other cities.

"Each city in the metro will be treated as a 'bubble' now during ECQ. The police will put checkpoints across the borders of all cities if only to prevent people from going out," police chief Gen. Guillermo Eleazar announced in a Palace briefing Thursday noon.

Non-APOR, he said, are allowed to shuttle essential frontliners to their workplaces, but they are required to present certificates of employment of the worker-APOR, plate numbers of vehicles to be used, and copies of business permits and contact numbers of concerned employers.



Those who have to cross inter-city borders due to medical emergencies or Covid-19 vaccination also have to present proof or certificates, Eleazar added.

Meanwhile, individuals who want to cross boundaries to buy essential goods will not be permitted, the police chief said.

“We are expecting slight congestion in our control points,” Eleazar admitted. “But those who will get past the checkpoints will surely have a quick travel since almost everyone will stay inside their homes unless they are APOR.”

#### Limited transport

Public transportation will continue to operate in Metro Manila during the ECQ period, but only under limited capacity to serve the so-called APOR. Public utility vehicles, such as buses and jeepneys, are allowed to operate at 50 percent capacity during ECQ.

Motorcycle taxi services and transport network vehicle services are also permitted to operate until 20 August.

Tricycles, on the other hand, are allowed to have one passenger in the side car, but their operations shall be approved by the Department of the Interior and Local Government and their respective local government units.

Moreover, the train systems in the country will operate during the lockdown. Marshals will remain inside the trains, which will be disinfected after every loop.

Domestic flights and sea travel in the NCR will also continue during the ECQ, subject to community quarantine restrictions of the destinations.

Due to the existing restrictions, all organizers of humanitarian activities — including the establishment of community pantries — should coordinate with local government units, which will determine the areas where these can be put up.

P1k to P4K

While law enforcers expressed readiness to impose stricter curbs, the government remained non-committal as to when the promised financial assistance for low-income families affected by the ECQ will be distributed.

At press time, neither the Palace nor budget and social welfare departments has stated when will the funds will be disbursed to local officials who, in turn, will distribute the relief to 11 million beneficiaries.

The beneficiaries are expected to receive P1,000 each — or a maximum of P4,000 per household.

Local officials will provide the list of beneficiaries, with the aid to be distributed either through manual payout, money remittance centers, or house-to-house distribution.

The government will spend P13 billion to fund cash grants, which will be sourced from the savings or unobligated appropriations and excess revenues of all agencies under the Executive department.



“If the funds remain insufficient, we will ask Congress for a supplemental budget,” Roque said.

Meanwhile, the financial aid for micro, small and medium enterprise was also in limbo.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE), on the other hand, vowed to use a portion of its remaining P4 billion in emergency employment fund to assist workers who will be displaced by the hard lockdown in Metro Manila.

DoLE has also requested the Department of Budget Management for a supplemental budget of P2 billion to extend assistance under the Covid-19 Adjustment Measures Program.

444,000 jobless  
The imposition of ECQ was expected to increase the number of poor people by up to 177,000 and the unemployed by 444,000, according to government estimates.

About P105 billion will also be lost to the economy for each week Metro Manila was under hard lockdown, since establishments deemed “non-essential” are barred from operating during the two-week ECQ.

Only select industries will be permitted to operate during the lockdown, including those involved in the delivery of food, health, and other basic services.

The two-week ECQ was deemed necessary to prevent a possible surge in coronavirus infections driven by the presence of the highly contagious Covid-19 Delta variant in Metro Manila, which may overwhelm the country’s health care facility, according to the government.

The government will push through with the Covid-19 vaccination of Metro Manila residents during the two-week ECQ, with the Palace appealing to local officials to prevent overcrowding in inoculation sites.

Roque, a lawyer, also warned local officials that they may face charges of dereliction of duty if they fail to enforce minimum health protocols during vaccination.

“There’s a possibility that [they will face charges] for dereliction of duty, so, they need to enforce minimum health standards,” he said, addressing local officials.

“We should ensure that our vaccination efforts will be orderly and efficient and we should avoid overcrowding,” Roque added.

The appeal came after thousands of vaccine recipients flocked in job sites in Manila and Las Piñas, raising fears that they may have turned into coronavirus “super spreader” events.

Roque said President Rodrigo Duterte had stressed it is the local government units’ obligation to ease the process of vaccination.

Duterte previously lamented how residents have stood in the rain and waded through knee-high floods while lining up in a vaccination hub in Manila, urging barangay officials to come up with a more efficient and convenient inoculation process.

Roque, likewise, denied claims that Covid-19 vaccination will be a requirement in receiving cash aid.

The Philippines on Thursday breached the 10-million mark for individuals already fully vaccinated against Covid-19, according to data from the national task force against Covid-19.





A day before, the government-administered 702,013 anti-Covid vaccine doses, the highest single-day doses given since the start of the state's national inoculation program last March.

13M target  
The country has been administering an average of 550,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccines daily this month, raising hopes that the government will immunize half of Metro Manila's 13 million population after the two-week ECQ.

"We will take advantage of the ECQ, so, we can fast-track our vaccination program. If this happens, we are near the point that we will achieve 50 percent fully-vaccinated population in Metro Manila perhaps after ECQ," Roque said, drawing cheers from the crowd.

Vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. said the latest figures were originally projected for the last quarter of the year.

"But we were able to reach this figure as early as August and it's all because of the relentless efforts from our healthcare workers, local government units, private sector, and the Filipino people," Galvez added.

He attributed the high vaccination rates to collective efforts of all sectors.

Testing czar Secretary Vince Dizon said the achievement indicated that the government was "on the right track" in the vaccination program.

"The Filipino people are with us in this journey of protecting one another against Covid-19 and its highly transmissible variants," Dizon said.

with Jomelle Garner



# Coping with ECQ: Dos and don'ts under strict lockdown

Published August 5, 2021, 3:08 PM

by [Argyll Cyrus Geducos](#)

As the National Capital Region (NCR) was scheduled to undergo a [two-week enhanced community quarantine \(ECQ\) from August 6 to 20, 2021](#) due to the rising number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases, here is a quick recap of activities that are allowed or not under the strict lockdown:

Under ECQ, only those aged 18 to 65 are allowed to leave their homes. Those outside the said age group may also go out only to acquire basic goods and services.

People may still exercise outdoors but this must take place within their respective barangays only.

During ECQ, only virtual religious gatherings will be allowed. Necrological services, wakes, inurnment, funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 are also allowed but are limited to immediate family members.

Vaccination activities will likewise continue during ECQ.

Public transportation will also remain operational at 50-percent capacity during the lockdown period.

Interzonal travel from NCR-plus areas, or Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal, will be limited to Authorized Persons Outside their Residence (APORs). Only APORs will also be allowed to conduct intrazonal travel within NCR-plus areas.

The following are considered APORs:

- Health and emergency frontline services and uniformed personnel
- Government officials and employees on official travel
- Duly-authorized relief and humanitarian assistance actors
- Persons traveling for medical or humanitarian reasons
- Persons going to and from the airport
- Anyone crossing zones for work in permitted industries
- Public utility vehicle operators

Meanwhile, the following activities or establishments are not allowed under ECQ:

- Entertainment venues (Bars, concert halls, theatre, etc.)
- Recreational venues (net cafes, billiards, arcades, etc.)
- Amusement parks, fairs, playgrounds, kiddie rides
- Traditional cockfighting and cockpits
- Lottery
- Horse racing with Off-track Betting (OTB) Stations.
- Indoor sports courts and venues
- Indoor and outdoor tourist attractions
- Venues for meetings, conferences, exhibitions
- Personal care services (salons, parlors, beauty clinics, etc).
- Specialized markets of the Department of Tourism (staycations, accommodations)
- Indoor and al fresco dining



- Headline
- Editorial
- Column
- Opinion
- Feature Article

**MANILA BULLETIN** 16 hours ago

LOCK: Here are the following guidelines for the Enhanced Community Quarantine starting tomorrow, August 6, 2021.

READ: <https://mb.com.ph/.../coping-with-ecq-dos-and-donts-under-strict-lockdown/>

**ECQ REMINDERS**

**WHO ARE AUTHORIZED PERSONS OUTSIDE OF RESIDENCE (APOs)?**

- Health and emergency frontline services and uniformed personnel
- Government officials and employees on official travel
- Duly-authorized relief and humanitarian assistance actors
- Persons traveling for medical or humanitarian reasons
- Persons going to and from the airport
- Anyone crossing zones for work in permitted industries
- Public utility vehicle operators

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**ECQ REMINDERS**

**ALLOWED**

- Age group 18-45 years old
- Individual outdoor exercise within the vicinity/berogay
- Virtual religious gatherings
- Interzonal travel from NCR-Plus areas (limited to APOs)
- Interzonal travel within NCR-Plus areas (limited to APOs)
- Religious services, wakes, interment, funeral for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 but limited to immediate family members

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**ECQ REMINDERS**

**NOT ALLOWED**

- Entertainment venues (bar, concert hall, theatre, etc.)
- Recreational venues (net courts, billiards, arcades, etc.)
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**ECQ REMINDERS**

**NOT ALLOWED**

- Indoor sports courts and venues
- Indoor and outdoor tourist attractions
- Venues for meetings, conferences, exhibitions
- Personal care services (salons, parlors, beauty clinics, etc.)
- Specialized markets or DOT (staycations, accommodations)
- Indoor and el fresco dining

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# ECQ needed to prevent India-like Covid transmission: Galvez

August 5, 2021, 8:05 am



(PNA photo by Avito C. Dalan)

**MANILA** -- National Task Force (NTF) against Covid-19 chief implementer and vaccine czar, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., on Wednesday said the imposition of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in the National Capital Region starting Friday is needed to ensure the country will not suffer the same fate as India and neighboring Indonesia, which saw a significant spike in Covid-19 cases mainly due to the Delta variant.

"If we will not declare ECQ sa (in) NCR, we will be the next India or Indonesia," Galvez said during a Committee on Health hearing at the House of Representatives on Wednesday.

"Let's not wait for our healthcare workers to be overwhelmed and later surrender. We have to protect them. Preventing them to be overwhelmed is our primary duty," he said, adding that the ECQ is needed to "disrupt" the transmission of the Delta variant in the country's economic center and highly-populated region.

Galvez said the business sector had been consulted about the imposition of ECQ. "We also consulted the business sector prior to recommending the ECQ status, *ang sabi nga nila* (they said), if we will not do something drastic to stop the transmission, we might not recover in the fourth quarter," Galvez said.

Infectious diseases expert, Dr. Edsel Salvana, warned that the Delta variant is 60 percent more transmissible than the UK variant (Alpha) and three times more contagious than the original SARS-COV-2 virus.

Salvana said a carrier of the Delta variant can infect up to eight people at a time, adding that younger populations are also being infected by the highly transmissible strain.

He said the observance of minimum public health standards such as the wearing of masks and face shields, as well as getting fully vaccinated are among the most effective measures against the Delta variant.

Salvana added that stricter border controls must also be implemented to prevent the entry of more variants of concerns.

Galvez said the government would further ramp up vaccination even during the imposition of ECQ in the NCR and some parts of the country.

As of Aug. 3, the country has already reached its target to administer more than 700,000 doses a day.



Data from the National Vaccine Operations Center (NVOC) showed the country was able to administer 702,013, the highest so far in a single day since the vaccination program started last March. Of this figure, 233,065 doses were administered as the first dose, while 468,948 were administered as second dose.

This brings the total doses administered in the country to 21,912,142, of which 12,073,569 are first dose, while fully vaccinated individuals at 9,838,573.

Galvez said the government would continue to implement the “focus and expand” strategy in its deployment of Covid-19 vaccines, as the country’s vaccine supply remains insufficient for them to be distributed equally among local government units nationwide.

While vaccine supplies from different manufacturers and sources continue to arrive in bulk, the country’s vaccine inventory is still not enough to inoculate the target population of 70.8 million Filipinos, he said.

“In order to meet the monthly demand and increase the capacities of all regions, provinces, and districts, the Philippines needs at least 25 million doses monthly,” Galvez said.

In July, the country received 16.4 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines, the biggest shipment made in a single month since the start of the vaccine rollout in March 7.

Galvez said the prioritization of areas, as well as the implementation of a phased vaccination program, is necessary to ensure the immediate protection of the nation’s highly vulnerable sectors, particularly the A1 (healthcare workers), A2 (senior citizens), and A3 (persons with comorbidities) groups.

“We conducted a risk assessment for our vaccine allocation. Our focus on deployment are areas in the NCR+10 and those with confirmed cases of the Delta variant,” he said.

Galvez acknowledged that the government faces challenges in the vaccination of the A2 group, particularly those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs).

“This is the reason why we allocated the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccines to these areas to increase the vaccination output and thankfully we are seeing progress,” he said.

Under the phased vaccination program, the NTF will determine the vaccine allocation per region or province based on the master list of eligible population submitted by a local government unit; the health, economic, social, and security risk of a locality; the population density of an area; the capacity of an LGU to receive and administer the vaccines; and the availability of vaccine supplies in the national inventory.

Galvez said the NTF and the NVOC would give provinces the flexibility to determine the allocation for their respective cities and municipalities through their Regional Vaccination Operations Center.

“The allocation lists are being deliberated by NVOC and these are submitted to me and Secretary Vince [Dizon] for evaluation to ensure that the distribution will be based on the masterlist of priority sectors A1 to A3 since kulang na kulang pa ang supply (supply is not enough),” he said. **(PR)**



## Alarming trend; cases of coronavirus-afflicted children on the rise

AUG 5, 2021, 12:00 PM

Opinyon News Team  
News Reporter

**As of August 5, PGH has reported eight minors who have contracted Covid-19, ranging from a newborn to a 15-year-old teenager.**

**CALLS** to authorize Covid-19 vaccination for children have become stronger after the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) reported an “alarming” trend of children contracting the virus.

In a media interview Tuesday (August 3), PGH spokesman Jonas del Rosario said they now have children who contracted the virus.

*“We are seeing a little trend of younger patients coming in,” he noted.*

As of August 5, PGH has reported eight minors who have contracted Covid-19, ranging from a newborn to a 15-year-old teenager.

Six out of the eight cases were considered as either “severe or critical,” Del Rosario later said.

*“Dalawa po doon ay moderate, tatlo po ang intubated o nasa ventilator, ang iba po ay nangangailangan ng some oxygen support.”*

While the Department of Health (DOH) said there is still no evidence of “community transmission” of the Covid-19 Delta variant, the PGH spokesperson said the situation is “probably a reflection” that the Delta variant contains higher viral load compared to other variants of concern.

*“We really have to vaccinate everyone not only to protect the elderly, but also the young ones who are currently not allowed to be vaccinated,” Del Rosario said.*

### ‘More confident’

However, PGH is now “a little bit more confident of the incoming or possible surge” of cases because 85 percent of its frontliners are fully vaccinated, Del Rosario said.

He said that although they have breakthrough infections among vaccinated health workers, most of them are mild cases and nobody was listed as severe or critical.

*“We have learned our lessons from the past one and a half years. We have made adjustments... been there, done that. The trails are easier now and I think people, our workforce are more prepared to handle this,” he said.*



Del Rosario said the number of Covid-19 admissions at the PGH is increasing steadily, although it is not critical yet.

A little over two weeks ago, the hospital had 100 to 105 cases, but the increase has been “very steady” in the last 10 days.

Source: <https://opinyon.net/national/alarming-trend-cases-of-coronavirus-afflicted-children-on-the-rise?fbclid=IwAR1oXQ4jenyhGS29gbQQ3XA0924Eb5-77xyh1LHO-Ebb1wmb5hFqPFFlhE>



# Lambda variant bagong banta sa Pinas

By [Danilo Garcia](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - August 6, 2021 - 12:00am



Ayon kay infectious disease expert Dr. Rontgene Solante, na bagama't hindi pa natutukoy sa Pilipinas, kumakalat na ang Lambda variant na unang natukoy sa Peru at sa iba't ibang bansa.  
The STAR/Miguel de Guzman

MANILA, Philippines — Isa na namang baong variant ng COVID-19 na Lambda na inihahalintulad sa Delta ang magiging bagong banta sa Pilipinas na kaila-ngang makapagsagawa ng mga pamamaraan na huwag makapasok sa bansa.

Ayon kay infectious disease expert Dr. Rontgene Solante, na bagama't hindi pa natutukoy sa Pilipinas, kumakalat na ang Lambda variant na unang natukoy sa Peru at sa iba't ibang bansa.

Sa ngayon ay nananatili pa rin itong isang 'variant of interest' ngunit may potensyal na maging 'variant of concern' tulad ng Delta, Alpha, Beta, at Gamma.

"May potential siya na maging variant of concern dahil 'yung mga mutations niya nakikita doon sa spike protein, medyo magkahawig din sa variant of concern," paliwanag ni Solante.

Nauna rito, lumitaw sa mga laboratory experiments na ang mutations ng Lambda ay maaari ring labanan ang antibodies na pinoprodyus ng mga bakuna.

Ngunit hindi naman magiging ganap na walang silbi ang COVID-19 vaccines laban sa Lambda. Maaari umanong mabawasan ang bisa nito ngunit hindi naman tuluyang mawawala ang proteksyon.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2021/08/06/2118026/lambda-variant-bagong-banta-sa-pinas/amp/>





## Additional measures against Covid-19

The battle against Covid-19 can only be won with everyone's cooperation.

Published 6 hours ago on August 6, 2021 12:40 AM

By [Harry Roque](#) @AttyHarryRoque



The rising cases of Covid-19 and the continued threat of new variants of concern, particularly the Delta variant, need more proactive measures and restrictions to slow down the surge in cases and stop the further spread of variants.

We, in the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF), decided to implement additional measures, apart from pre-emptive measures like putting areas with increasing cases and high/critical healthcare capacity under more restrictive community quarantine classifications.

Among these proactive measures is shortening the detection to isolation/quarantine interval to less than five days. This can be done by doing active case finding, particularly in areas with clustering of cases. Intensified contact tracing of all close contacts of suspect, probable, and confirmed cases must be done within 24 hours upon detection of a case.

Once contact tracing is done, immediate isolation/quarantine and testing of cases and close contacts should be done. Rapid antigen tests may be used for confirmation of suspect/probable cases and close contacts, while RT-PCR test must be done for those who turned negative on antigen test to further confirm the presence or absence of the virus. Samples from identified areas with case increases or clustering must be submitted for sequencing within seven days of sample collection to the Philippine Genome Center.

Meanwhile, the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Trade and Industry are directed to ensure that workplaces and establishments conduct daily health and exposure screening, report identified cases and close contacts to local government units (LGU), and coordinate for investigation and response. Workplaces may also consider incentives that will encourage reporting and adherence to isolation/quarantine.

To prevent household transmission, facility-based isolation, and quarantine should be prioritized. The Department of Health (DoH) recommended the increased use of isolation and quarantine facilities and Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities, as well as the deployment of additional staff as needed to ensure close monitoring of cases and strict enforcement of infection prevention and control protocols.



To ensure that healthcare capacities and systems are readily available and accessible in preparation for spikes in cases, the IATF resolved that each health facility must have a Covid-19 Surge Plan that will detail needed resources and how it shall be operationalized.

The DoH is also directed to define additional metrics that will serve as an early warning to signal a beginning surge such as a hospital's emergency department occupation rate and number of pending admissions. Moreover, needed logistics have to be secured and prepositioned including available supplies of ventilation requirements, oxygen tanks, regulators and canisters, and stockpiles of personal protective equipment and medicines as needed. On the part of the LGU, triage and referral systems should be in place to enable cases assessments for swift management at appropriate facilities.

Another important factor that can help contain Covid-19 is the ramping up of our vaccination, especially among the A2 and A3 priority population to reduce severe disease and deaths. The National Task Force Vaccine Cluster is directed to ensure sufficient supply of up to four million vaccine doses for the National Capital Region, and an additional 2.5 million doses for Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal.

To prevent the entry of more Covid-19 variants of concern in the country, we are strictly enforcing border control protocols at all ports of entry. Our health experts and local authorities continue to assess the Covid-19 situation at all levels by doing a regular assessment of trends of cases and admissions. The Department of the Interior and Local Government will continue to monitor the implementation of the Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Treat-Reintegrate strategy and ensure that enhanced case finding, contact tracing, and proper isolation/quarantine are being done by the LGU.

Lastly, we need correct information on the variants of concern and the actions and that must be disseminated properly. Make sure that you get the information from qualified sources to avoid being misinformed.

The battle against Covid-19 can only be won with everyone's cooperation. Continue to correctly follow the minimum public health standards and when in doubt, isolate and consult with health professionals or seek the help of your LGU.



## MAGHANAP NA NG PAGLILIBINGAN NG PATAY SA DELTA VARIANT



August 5, 2021 @ 6:00 PM 13 hours ago

NAPAKARAMING dapat ihanda ng ating bansa kaugnay ng posibleng pananalasa ng coronavirus disease-19 o COVID-19 at mga variant nito, partikular ang Delta variant.

Ngunit sa pagkakataong ito, bigyan natin ng importansya ang mga usaping paglilibing at suplay ng medical oxygen.

### **SEMENTERYO AT SEPULTURERO**

Unahin nating pagtuunan ng pansin ang paglilibing ng mga namamatay.

Nakita sa India ang grabeng problema sa paglilibing ng mga patay nang ginawa na nilang sunugan ng mga bangkay ang mga bakanteng lote, gilid ng ilog at pagtatapon ng bangkay sa mga ilog nang hindi na sapat ang serbisyo ng mga crematory.

Naganap ito noong Abril-hanggang Hunyo 2021 nang umabot sa 4,000-6,000 ang patay araw-araw sa India.

Ngayon naman sa Indonesia, nariryan ang panawagan ng mga sepulturero na tulungan sila ng mga kamag-anak ng mga namamatay dahil kulang na kulang at sobrang-sobra na ang kanilang pagod at puyat sa paglilibing, bukod sa takot nilang mahawa at mamatay rin.

Sa ngayon, naglalaro sa 2,000 tao ang namamatay araw-araw sa nasabing bansa.

Sana naman hindi aabot sa Pilipinas ang ganitong kalagayan subalit paano kung mangyari ang mga ito sa atin dahil sa pananalasa ng Delta variant, kasama ang orig na COVID virus at mga Alpha o United Kingdom at Beta o South African variant?

### **PUNERARYA AT CREMATORY NAGPAPAYAMAN**

May patakaran ngayon na sa loob ng 12 oras, dapat nang sunugin ang bangkay sa crematory ang namatay sa COVID-19.

Ang isang mahalagang kaugnay na usapin dito ay pagsasamantala ng mga may-ari ng crematory sa malungkot na kalagayan ng mga biktima at ginagawa na itong pagkakaperahan nang husto.

'Yun bang === mula sa dating P25,000 na pinakamahal noon, ngayon, anak ng tokwa, nasa P90,000 na pataas ang pagsusunog ng bangkay.

Hindi lang 'yan ang problema dahil nagsasamantala na rin ang mga punerarya at kanya-kanya nang dagdag na singil.

Kahit hindi na gagamit ng kabaong na napakamahal na rin ngayon sa pinakamurang halaga na P30,000, naniningil na ang mga punerarya ng P25,000 pataas sa pagsundo ng bangkay at paghahatid sa crematory.



Ngayon pa nga lang ay iniyyakan o iniwasan na ito ng mga namamatayan hangga't maaari.

Kaya, pakiusapan na natin ang pamahalaan, nasyonal at lokal, na kargahin nila ang paghahanap ngpaglilibingan, dagdag na sepulturero at umayuda sa problema sa pagsusunog ng mga bangkay.

### **PULIS, SUNDALO, BUMBERO IHANDA RIN**

Kung saka-sakali talagang manalasa ang pandemya, dapat nating tingnan ang mga aksyon ng mga pulis, sundalo at bumbero sa paglilibing.

Sa Lombardy, Italy noong kasagsagan ng pananalasa ng orig na COVID-19 nitong nakaraang taon, ang mga sundalo, pulis at bumbero, gamit ang kanilang mga sasakyan, ang sumusundo at naghahatid sa libingan ng mga patay.

Ito'y dahil sa sobrang dami ng mga patay na hindi na nakayanan ng mga pamilya na balikatin.

Ginawa rin ito sa France.

Dala ang iba pa nilang mga kagamitan, kabilang na ang mga pala at bareta, gumawa sila ng mga libingan na pang-mass grave o maramihang paglilibing.

Ganito ngayon ang nagaganap sa Brazil na libo ang namamatay araw-araw gaya sa Manaus na tabi-tabi ang mga hinuhukay na libingan.

Makaraang mapuno ang mga sementeryo at wala nang ispasyo, sa mga paanan ng bundok sila gumagawa ng mga libingan at at tumutulong ang mga sundalo, pulis at bumbero para rito.

### **MEDICAL OXYGEN NASAAN?**

Isang malaking katanungan ang problema sa medical oxygen sa mga bansang sinasalanta ng Delta variant, katulong ang iba pang mga variant at orig na COVID-19.

Katuwang ang medical oxygen ang mga gawa ng mga health worker at ospital sa pagsalba ng buhay, lalo na kung isipin na kalahati sa pagsasalba ng mga pasyente ang nakadepende sa oxygen.

Hanggang ngayon, matindi pa rin ang pangangailangan sa India at ang Indonesia, kapos na kapos sa ngayon.

Meron ba tayong sapat na suplay ng medical oxygen, kasama ang mga tangke at aparato ng mga ito?

Sa India, nitong Abril hanggang Mayo at Hunyo, pinatigil ng pamahalaang India ang maraming industriya sa paggamit ng oxygen para makumbert ang mga ito na maging medical oxygen.

Binalaan din ang mga nagsasamantala, nagho-hoard ng mga oxygen at oxygen tank ng parusang kamatayan.

Ngayon nga lang ay nagkakabalitaan na ang hoarding at overpricing sa medical oxygen, tangke at aparto rito sa atn.

Ano-ano nga nga ba ang paghahanda natin sa problemang ito?



**#OneDENR**

**Covid-19  
Situation and Response**



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

**RESOLUTION NO. 131**

Series of 2021

August 5, 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(h) of Executive Order No. 168 (s.2014) mandates the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) 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 (DOH), the University of the Philippines-Philippine Genome Center (UP-PGC), and the University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH) biosurveillance have detected B.1.1.7 (Alpha), B.1.351 (Beta), and P.1 (Gamma) variants of SARS-CoV-2 in the Philippines. The DOH, UP-PGH, and UP-NIH have likewise confirmed the presence of the B.1.617 (Delta) variant that was first detected in India;

**WHEREAS**, the continued implementation of proactive measures and restrictions must be put in place to slow down the surge in COVID-19 cases, stop further spread of variants, buy time for the health system to cope, and to protect more lives;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, that the IATF approves the following:

- A. As the premium contingency tool to prepare for the impending spikes in COVID-19 cases driven by the variants of concern, the Crisis Action Plan Against COVID-19 Delta Variant, together with the proposed restructuring of the National Task Force Against COVID-19 is hereby approved.
- B. Upon the recommendations of the Sub Technical Working Group on Data Analytics, the risk level classification of the following provinces, highly



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urbanized cities, and independent component cities shall be as follows, without prejudice to their further reclassification and the imposition of localized Enhanced Community Quarantine in critical areas

1. Beginning 06 August 2021, Laguna, Iloilo City, and Cagayan de Oro shall be placed under Enhanced Community Quarantine until 15 August 2021;
2. Beginning 05 August 2021, Cavite, Lucena City, Rizal, and Iloilo Province shall be placed under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine until 15 August 2021;
3. Beginning 06 August 2021, Balangas and Quezon shall be placed under General Community Quarantine, with the observance and implementation of the following heightened restrictions until 15 August 2021:
  - a. Food preparation establishments such as commissaries, restaurants, and caterers may operate with their indoor dine-in services at the venue or seating capacity of twenty percent (20%), and with their *al fresco* or outdoor dine-in services at the venue or seating capacity of fifty percent (50%).
  - b. Personal care services, such as beauty salons, beauty parlors, barbershops, and nail spas, may operate up to thirty percent (30%) venue or seating capacity. For this purpose, these establishments shall only provide services that can accommodate the wearing of face masks at all times by patrons/clients and service providers.
  - c. Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions (MICE) events in eligible venue establishments shall not be allowed to operate;
  - d. Outdoor tourist attractions shall remain to be allowed at thirty percent (30%) venue capacity with strict adherence to minimum public health standards;
  - e. Under the Safety Seal Certification Program, business establishments awarded Safety Seal Certifications shall be allowed to operate at an additional 10 percentage points beyond



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aforementioned areas and the operation of public transportation.  
The use of active transportation shall likewise be promoted;

C. The recommendations of the IATF Technical Working Group are approved, the specifics of which are as follows:

1. The Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) shall be allowed to resume the 45th Season of their Philippine Cup Conference in areas under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) and/or Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) in compliance with the provisions of the Joint Administrative Order No. 2021-002 of the Philippine Sports Commission, Games and Amusement Board, and Department of Health, and related issuances are complied with, and with the written concurrence of the local government unit concerned. Should the community quarantine classification of their proposed new venue be escalated to a community quarantine classification higher than GCQ, the PBA should look for another venue that is under GCQ or MGCQ;

2. Further amending the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines as follows:

a. Inclusion of contractors in port terminals and ancillary services.  
Section 12(4)(a)(v) shall now be read as follows:

*v. Logistics service providers (delivery and courier services; cargo handling; warehousing; trucking; freight forwarding; shipping, port and terminal operators **and contractors and ancillary services (i.e. drivers, conductors, terminal workers);***

b. The inclusion of the contractors, subcontractors, and consultants of the Department of Transportation for the construction of Build Build Build flagship infrastructure projects. Section 12 (4)(a)(vi.) shall now be read as follows:

*vi. Employees/workers in essential and priority construction projects, whether public or private, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Works and*





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Highways (DPWH), including contractors, subcontractors, and consultants of the Department of Transportation for the construction of Build Build Build flagship infrastructure projects;

- c. Clarifying that liquefied petroleum gas is included in the energy sector. Section [2](4)(c)(vi) shall now be read as follows:

*vi. The energy sector (oil, gas, and power companies), their third-party contractors and service providers, including employees involved in electric transmission and distribution, electric power plant and line maintenance, electricity market and retail suppliers, as well as those involved in the exploration, operations, trading and delivery of coal, oil, crude or petroleum and by-products (gasoline, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas or LPG, jet oil, kerosene, lubricants), including gasoline stations, refineries, LPG stations, and depots or any kind of fuel used to produce power;*

- e. Allowing other printing establishments contracted by government agencies to operate, Section [2](4)(c)(xi) shall now be read as follows:

*xi. Printing establishments authorized by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and those contracted by other government agencies;*

- f. Qualifying the authority of lawyers to be outside of their respective residences, Section [2](4)(c)(xvii) shall now be read as follows:

*xvii. Lawyers only when required to provide on-site legal representation necessary to protect rights of persons, whether natural or juridical;*

- g. Noting that the continued provision of COVID-19 vaccines and consular services are essential even during ECQ, Section [7](2)(a)(4) shall now be read as follows:



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*(4) persons traveling for medical or humanitarian reasons, and those leaving their residence to be vaccinated (with proof of schedule), and persons availing of DFA consular services (with confirmed appointments)*

- h. Highlighting that persons going to and from the airport include Overseas Filipino Workers, Section [7](2)(a)(5) shall now be read as follows:

*(5) persons going to and from the airport including Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) carrying Overseas Employment Certificates.*

- i. Restricting the APCRAs who can cross zones for work, business, or an activity, Section [7](2)(a)(C) shall now be read as follows:

*(6) any person whose purpose of travel to the zone of destination is for a work, business, or activity that is also permitted in areas under ECO.*

- j. Such other amendments relating only to style and formatting not otherwise affecting the spirit of the provisions.


To aid in the implementation of the pertinent provisions of the Omnibus Guidelines, the Comprehensive List of Persons Allowed to Travel Within, to and from Areas Under Enhanced Community Quarantine, Also Known As Authorized Persons Outside of Residences is hereby issued together with this Resolution.

**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.



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**APPROVED** during the 131st Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, held this August 05, 2021, via video conference.

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

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



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
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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 Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases created under Executive Order No. 168, (s.2014) and chaired by the Department of Health (DOH);
3. The IATF Secretariat holds office in the DOH Main Office, San Lazaro Compound, Tayuman, S.a. Cruz, Manila;
4. I am the custodian of the records of the IATF, including the Minutes of Meetings and Resolutions;
5. In the Regular Meeting of the IATF held on 05 August 2021 via teleconference during which a quorum was present and acted throughout, IATF Resolution No. 131 was unanimously approved and adopted;
6. The foregoing resolution has been signed by Secretary Francisco T. Duque III and Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles 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 August 2021, Manila.

  
**ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO GRANDE**  
*Assistant Secretary of Health*  
*Head Secretariat IATF*



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
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FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**OMNIBUS GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
COMMUNITY QUARANTINE IN THE PHILIPPINES**  
*with Amendments as of August 05, 2021*

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

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. (E.O.) 168, (s. 2014) created the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) to facilitate inter-sectoral collaboration to establish preparedness and ensure efficient government response to assess, monitor, contain, control, and prevent the spread of any potential epidemic in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2(c) of E.O. 168 mandates the IATF to prevent and/or minimize the local spread of emerging infectious diseases in the country through the establishment or reinforcement of a system in screening possible patients infected with emerging infectious diseases, contact tracing, identification of the mode of exposure to the virus, and implementation of effective quarantine and proper isolation procedures;

**WHEREAS**, on 28 January 2020, the IATF convened, and thereafter issued regular recommendations for the management of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease, which is now known as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);

**WHEREAS**, the 18 March 2020 Memorandum from the Office of the Executive Secretary directed all heads of departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of government, including the Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Force of the Philippines (AFP), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), Government Financial Institutions (GFIs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and Local Government Units (LGUs) to adopt, coordinate, and implement guidelines which the IATF may issue on the COVID-19 situation, consistent with the respective agency mandates and relevant laws, rules, and regulations;

**WHEREAS**, Section 6 (e) of RA 11332, allows the DCH to perform disease surveillance and response functions to address events of public health concern;

**WHEREAS**, on 30 April 2020, E.O. No. 112, (s. 2020) was issued which confirmed and adopted the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as approved and recommended under IATF Resolution No. 30, and authorized any amendment or modification thereto subject to the approval of the IATF.



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**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the premises set forth herein, the IATF issues these amended Omnibus Guidelines to harmonize and codify existing guidelines of the IATF and member-agencies pertaining to community quarantine, which shall be applied to all regions, provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays placed under community quarantine.

**SECTION [1] DEFINITION OF TERMS.** For purposes of these Guidelines, the following shall be defined as follows:

1. **Accommodation Establishments** - refers to establishments operating primarily for accommodation purposes including, but not limited to, hotels, resorts, apartment hotels, tourist inns, motels, pension houses, private homes used for homestay, ecoledges, serviced apartments, condotels, and bed and breakfast facilities. *(As amended by Paragraph A(1) of IATF Resolution No. 43, June 03, 2020)*
2. **Comorbidity** - refers to the presence of a pre-existing chronic disease condition.
3. **Community Quarantine** - refers to the restriction of movement within, into, or out of the area of quarantine of individuals, large groups of people, or communities, designed to reduce the likelihood of transmission of an infectious disease among persons in and to persons outside the affected area.
4. **COVID 19** - refers to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 which is caused by the virus known as the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).
5. **Enhanced Community Quarantine** - refers to the implementation of temporary measures imposing stringent limitations on movement and transportation of people, strict regulation of operating industries, provision of food and essential services, and heightened presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols.
6. **Essential goods and services** - covers health and social services to secure the safety and well-being of persons, such as but not limited to, food, water, medicine, medical devices, public utilities, energy, and others as may be determined by the IATF.
7. **General Community Quarantine** - refers to the implementation of temporary measures limiting movement and transportation, regulation of operating industries, and presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols.
8. **Health and emergency frontline services** - refers to services provided by public health workers [all employees of the DOH, DOH Hospitals, Hospitals of LGUs, and Provincial, City, and Rural Health Units, and Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers including those managed by other government agencies (e.g. police and military hospitals/clinics, university medical facilities), uniformed medical personnel], private health workers, such as but not limited to medical professionals, hospital and health



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facility administrative and maintenance staff, and aides from private health facilities, as well as their service providers, health workers and volunteers of the Philippine Red Cross and the World Health Organization, and employees of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC), health insurance providers, disaster risk reduction management officers, and public safety officers.

9. **Interzonal movement** - the movement of people, goods and services between provinces, highly urbanized cities, and independent component cities under different community quarantine classification. For this purpose, the National Capital Region shall be considered as one area. Provided that movements to and from areas under granular lockdowns shall be considered as interzonal movement even if within the same province or highly urbanized city. *(As amended by Paragraph A of IATF Resolution No. 79, October 15, 2020)*
10. **Intrazonal movement** - the movement of people, goods and services between provinces, highly urbanized cities, and independent component cities under the same community quarantine classification, without transiting through an area under a different classification. For this purpose, the National Capital Region shall be considered as one area. *(As amended by Paragraph A of IATF Resolution No. 79, October 15, 2020)*
11. **Minimum public health standards** - refers to guidelines set by the DOH under Administrative Order No. 2020-0015 and such other issuances subsequent thereto, as well as sector-relevant guidelines issued by national government agencies as authorized by the IATF, to aid all sectors in all settings to implement non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI), or public health measures that do not involve vaccines, medications or other pharmaceutical interventions, which individuals and communities must carry out in order to reduce transmission rates, contact rates, and the duration of infectiousness of individuals in the population.
12. **Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine** - refers to the transition phase between ECQ and GCQ, when the following temporary measures are relaxed and become less necessary: stringent limits on movement and transportation of people, strict regulation of operating industries, provision of food and essential services, and heightened presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols.
13. **Modified General Community Quarantine** - refers to the transition phase between GCQ and the New Normal, when the following temporary measures are relaxed and become less necessary: limiting movement and transportation, the regulation of operating industries, and the presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols.
14. **New Normal** - refers to the emerging behaviors, situations, and minimum public health standards that will be institutionalized in common or routine practices and remain even



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after the pandemic while the disease is not totally eradicated through means such as widespread immunization. These include actions that will become second nature to the general public as well as policies such as bans on large gatherings that will continue to remain in force:

15. **On-site capacity** - refers to the number of employees or workers who can be permitted or required to be physically present at their designated workplace outside of their residences. *(As amended by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*
16. **Skeleton workforce** - refers to the on-site capacity which utilizes the smallest number of people needed for a business or organization to maintain its basic functions. *(As amended by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*

**SECTION [2] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS PLACED UNDER ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE.** Areas placed under ECQ shall observe the following protocols:

1. Minimum public health standards shall be complied with at all times for the duration of the ECQ
2. The movement of all persons shall be limited to accessing goods and services from permitted establishments, for work in such establishments, or for such other activities allowed in this section. *(As amended by Paragraph C of IATF Resolution No. 110, April 15, 2021)*
3. Any person below eighteen (18) years old, those who are over sixty-five (65) years of age, those with immunodeficiency, comorbidity, or other health risks, and pregnant women shall be required to remain in their residences at all times, except for obtaining essential goods and services, or for work in industries and offices or such other activities permitted in this Section. *(As amended by Paragraph A of IATF Resolution No. 79, October 15, 2020, and Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*
4. Only the following establishments, persons, or activities are allowed to operate, work, or be undertaken for the duration of the ECQ:
  - a. With full on-site capacity:
    - i. Public and private hospitals,
    - ii. Health, emergency, and frontline services, including those provided by dialysis centers, chemotherapy centers, IMCs, health insurance providers, disaster risk reduction management officers, and public safety officers, and the like;





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- iii. Manufacturers of medicines and vitamins, medical supplies, devices, and equipment, including suppliers of input, packaging, and distribution;
  - iv. Industries involved in agriculture (crops, fruits, vegetables, livestock, and poultry), forestry, fishery, and such other components of the food value chain and their workers, including farmers and fisher folks;
  - v. Logistics service providers (delivery and courier services, cargo handling, warehousing, trucking, freight forwarding, shipping, port and terminal operators and contractors and ancillary services (i.e. drivers, conductors, terminal workers);
  - vi. Essential and priority construction projects, whether public or private, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) including contractors, subcontractors, and consultants of the Department of Transportation for the construction of Build Build Build flagship infrastructure projects;
  - vii. Manufacturing related to food and other essential goods such as but not limited to soap and detergents, diapers, personal hygiene products, toilet paper, and wet wipes, and disinfectants;
  - viii. Companies that manufacture, distribute, and/or supply equipment or products necessary to perform construction or maintenance works, such as cement and steel, or spare parts;
  - ix. Essential retail, trade and service establishments such as public markets, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies or drug stores, hardware, office supplies, bicycle shops, laundry shops, and water-refilling stations;
  - x. Food preparation establishments such as kiosks, commissaries, restaurants, and caterers, but limited to take-out and delivery;
  - xi. Public and private financial service providers involved in the distribution of government grants and amelioration subsidies;
  - xii. Business process outsourcing establishments (BPOs), and export-oriented businesses, including mining and quarrying activities; and
  - xiii. Public transport providers and operators;
- b. At a maximum of fifty percent (50%) on-site capacity:
- i. Media establishments and their total permanent staff complement, inclusive of reporters and other field employees.
- c. With an on-site skeleton workforce:
- i. Dental, rehabilitation, optometry, and other medical clinics for the treatment of illness or injuries. *Provided*, that there is strict observance



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of infection prevention and control protocols. *Provided, further,* that dental procedures shall be limited to emergency cases only and that the wearing of full Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) by dentists and attendants shall be mandatory. *Provided, finally,* that home service therapy for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) shall be allowed;

- ii. Veterinary clinics;
- iii. Banks, money transfer services, including pawnshops only insofar as performing money transfer functions, microfinance institutions, and credit cooperatives, including their armored vehicle services, if any;
- iv. Capital markets, including but not limited to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Securities and Exchange Commission, Philippine Stock Exchange, Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corporation, Philippine Securities Settlement Corporation, and Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation;
- v. Water supply and janitorial/sanitation services and facilities, including waste disposal services, as well as property management and building utility services;
- vi. The energy sector (oil, gas, and power companies), their third-party contractors and service providers, including employees involved in electric transmission and distribution, electric power plant and line maintenance, electricity market and retail suppliers, as well as those involved in the exploration, operations, trading and delivery of coal, oil, crude or petroleum and by-products (gasoline, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas or LPG, jet oil, kerosene, lubricants), including gasoline stations, refineries, LPG stations, and depots or any kind of fuel used to produce power;
- vii. Telecommunications companies, internet service providers, cable television providers, including those who perform indirect services such as the technical, sales, and other support personnel, as well as the employees of their third-party contractors doing sales, installation, maintenance, and repair works;
- viii. Airline and aircraft maintenance, pilots and crew, and employees of aviation schools for purposes of the pilot's recurrent training for flight proficiency and type rating using simulator facilities; and ship captains and crew, including shipyard operations and repair;
- ix. Funeral and embalming services;
- x. Security personnel licensed by the PNP - Supervisory Office for Security and Investigation Agencies;
- xi. Printing establishments authorized by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and those contracted by other government agencies;
- xii. Establishments engaged in repair and maintenance of machinery and equipment, for households and essential permitted establishments;



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- xiii. Establishments engaged in repair and maintenance of motorized and non-motorized vehicles, including the sale of spare parts;
- xiv. Leasing of real and personal properties;
- xv. Employment activities that involve the recruitment and placement for permitted sectors;
- xvi. Teachers, professors and other staff for purposes of conducting online/offline, and flexible classes, completion of grades, and processing of student credentials, requirements and documents;
- xvii. Lawyers only when required to provide on-site legal representation necessary to protect rights of persons, whether natural or juridical; and
- xviii. All other establishments, to the extent necessary for the buying and selling of consumer goods or services via the internet.

All other businesses, persons, or activities, shall not be allowed to operate, work, or be undertaken on-site during ECQ. *(As amended by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution No. 106-B, March 28, 2021, and Par. C(2) of IATF Resolution No. 131, August 5, 2021)*

5. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is hereby authorized to issue a negative list of industries that shall remain prohibited in areas under ECQ.
6. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall be fully operational, with a skeleton workforce on-site and the remainder under alternative work arrangements as approved by the head of agency unless a greater on-site capacity is required in agencies providing health and emergency frontline services, laboratory and testing services, border control, or other critical services, in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations issued by the Civil Service Commission (CSC). *(As amended by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*
7. The co-equal or independent authority of the legislature (Senate and the House of Representatives), the judiciary (the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Court of Tax Appeals, Sandiganbayan, and the lower courts), the Office of the Ombudsman, and the Constitutional Commissions, to implement any alternative work arrangements, is recognized. *(As amended by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*
8. Officials and employees of foreign diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), whenever performing diplomatic functions and subject to the guidelines issued by the DFA, may operate with an on-site skeleton workforce.
9. Only hotels or accommodation establishments with valid Department of Tourism (DOT) Accreditation shall be allowed to accommodate guests and clients for legitimate purposes



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under a state of a public health emergency. The operations of such hotels and accommodation establishments, as well as ancillary establishments within their premises such as restaurants, cafés, gyms, spas, function halls, and the like, shall be subject to guidelines issued by the DOH and the IATF *(As amended by Paragraph A(2) IATF Resolution No. 43, June 23, 2020, and Paragraph C(2)(4) of IATF Resolution No. 95, January 15, 2021)*

10. Gatherings outside of residences shall be prohibited. Gatherings at residences with any person outside of one's immediate household shall likewise be prohibited. However, gatherings that are essential for the provision of health services, government services, or humanitarian activities authorized by the appropriate government agency or instrumentality shall be allowed.

Pastors, priests, rabbis, imams, or other religious ministers and their assistants may conduct religious services performed through online video recording and transmission, necrological services, wakes, inurnment, and funerals, and they shall be allowed to move for such purposes. Corollary, immediate family members of the deceased who died of causes other than COVID-19 shall be allowed to move from their residences to attend the wake or interment of the deceased upon satisfactory proof of their relationship with the latter, fully complying with the prescribed minimum public health standards for the duration of the activity. *(As amended by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106 B, March 28, 2021)*

11. Face-to-face or in-person classes at all levels shall be suspended. The education sector shall operate in accordance with the guidelines of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for higher education, Technical Educational and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for technical, vocational education and training, and Department of Education (DepEd) for basic education. *(As amended by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*

12. The road, rail, maritime, and aviation sectors of public transportation shall be allowed to operate at such capacity and protocols in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Transportation (DOTr). *(As amended by Paragraph B(2) of IATF Resolution no. 106 A, March 27, 2021)*

13. Law enforcement agencies shall recognize any of the following IDs: (i) IATF IDs issued by the regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over permitted establishments or persons, (ii) valid IDs or other pertinent documentation issued by accrediting organizations or establishments allowed under ECQ, and, (iii) if required by the LGU, local IDs for availing of essential goods and services. No other IDs or passes specifically exempting persons from community quarantine shall be required of workers of permitted establishments and/or offices without prejudice to requiring the presentation of other documents establishing the nature of their work. *(As amended by Paragraph B IATF*



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*Resolution No. 46, June 15, 2020, and Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*

14. The movement of cargo/delivery vehicles, as well as vehicles used by public utility companies, shall be unhampered. Shuttle services of permitted establishments shall not be subject to an ID system, but shall maintain compliance with minimum public health standards. *(As amended by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*
15. Private corporations are encouraged to process payrolls online. Payroll managers and such other employees required for the processing of payroll shall be allowed to travel to their respective offices during ECQ. *(As amended by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*
16. Uniform curfew hours may be imposed by LGUs, subject to the guidelines issued by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). Workers, cargo vehicles, public transportation, and operating hours of permitted establishments, however, shall not be restricted by such curfew. *(As introduced by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*
17. Any violation of the foregoing prohibitions shall constitute non-cooperation of the person or entities punishable under Section 9 par. (d) or (e), as the case may be, of Republic Act No. 11332, otherwise known as the Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. *(As introduced by Paragraph C of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*

**SECTION [3] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS PLACED UNDER MODIFIED ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE.** Areas placed under MECQ shall observe the following protocols:

1. Minimum public health standards shall be complied with at all times for the duration of the MECQ.
2. The movement of all persons shall be limited to accessing goods and services from permitted establishments, for work in such establishments, or for such other activities allowed in this section. *(As amended by Paragraph C of IATF Resolution No. 110, April 15, 2021)*
3. Any person below eighteen (18) years old, those who are over sixty-five years (65) of age, those with immunodeficiency, comorbidity, or other health risks, and pregnant women shall be required to remain in their residences at all times, except for obtaining essential goods and services, or for work in industries and offices or such other activities permitted in this Section. Local government units may relax the minimum age range



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down to fifteen (15) years old, depending on the COVID-19 situation in their respective jurisdictions. *(As amended by Paragraph A of IATF Resolution No. 79, October 15, 2020)*

4. All establishments, persons, or activities permitted to operate, work, or be undertaken during ECQ under Section 2(4) of these Guidelines shall be allowed to operate at full on-site capacity.
5. All establishments, persons, or activities not permitted to operate, work, or be undertaken during ECQ shall be allowed to operate at fifty percent (50%) on-site capacity while encouraging work-from-home and other flexible work arrangements, where applicable.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, and without prejudice to the authority of DTI to issue a negative list of industries which shall remain prohibited even in areas under MECQ, the following establishments, persons, or activities shall not be permitted to operate, work, or be undertaken during MECQ:

- a. Entertainment venues with live performers such as karaoke bars, bars, clubs, concert halls, theaters, and cinemas;
- b. Recreational venues such as internet cafes, billiard halls, amusement arcades, bowling alleys, and similar venues;
- c. Amusement parks or theme parks, fairs/*peryas*, and amusement industries such as playgrounds, playroom, and kiddie rides;
- d. Outdoor sports courts or venues for contact sports, scrimmages, games, or activities;
- e. Indoor sports courts or venues, fitness studios, gyms, spas or other indoor leisure centers or facilities, and swimming pools;
- f. Casinos, horse racing\*, cockfighting and operation of cockpits, lottery and betting shops\*\*, and other gaming establishments except for the draws conducted by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office;
- g. Indoor visitor or tourist attractions, libraries, archives, museums, galleries, and cultural shows and exhibits;
- h. Outdoor tourist attractions;
- i. Venues for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions;
- j. Personal care services which include beauty salons, beauty parlors, medical aesthetic clinics, cosmetic or derma clinics, make-up salons, nail spas, reflexology, aesthetics, wellness, and holistic centers, and other similar establishments; acupuncture and electroacupuncture establishments, and massage therapy including sports therapy establishments. It also includes establishments providing tanning services, body piercings, tattooing, and similar services. Home service for these activities are likewise not permitted; and
- k. Indoor dine-in services of food preparation establishments such as commissaries, restaurants, and caterers.



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*\*inclusion in the negative list of industries not allowed to operate suspended pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 114 s. 2021 issued on 06 May 2021. May operate only on a no-audience set-up.*  
*\*\*inclusion in the negative list of industries not allowed to operate suspended pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 115 s. 2021 issued on 13 May 2021.*

6. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall be fully operational, with a skeleton workforce on site and the remainder under alternative work arrangements as approved by the head of agency unless a greater on-site capacity is required in agencies providing health and emergency frontline services, laboratory and testing services, border control, or other critical services, in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations issued by the CSC.
7. The co-equal or independent authority of the legislature (Senate and the House of Representatives), the judiciary (the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Court of Tax Appeals, Sandiganbayan, and the lower courts), the Office of the Ombudsman, and the Constitutional Commissions, to implement any alternative work arrangements, is recognized.
8. Officials and employees of foreign diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited by the DFA, whenever performing diplomatic functions and subject to the guidelines issued by the DFA, may operate with an on-site skeleton workforce.
9. Only hotels or accommodation establishments with valid DOT Accreditation shall be allowed to accommodate guests and clients for legitimate purposes under a state of a public health emergency. The operations of such hotels and accommodation establishments, as well as ancillary establishments within their premises such as restaurants, cafés, gyms, spas, function halls, and the like, shall be subject to guidelines issued by the DOT and the IATF. *(As amended by Paragraph A(2) of IATF Resolution No. 43, June 03, 2020, and Paragraph C(2)(4), of IATF Resolution No. 95, January 15, 2021)*
10. Gatherings outside of residences shall be prohibited. Gatherings at residences with any person outside of one's immediate household shall likewise be prohibited. However, gatherings that are essential for the provision of health services, government services, or humanitarian activities authorized by the appropriate government agency or instrumentality shall be allowed.

Religious gatherings shall be allowed up to ten percent (10%) of the venue capacity. Provided, that, there is no objection from the local government unit where the religious gathering may take place. Provided, further, that the LGU may increase the allowable venue capacity up to thirty percent (30%). The religious denominations should strictly observe their submitted protocols and the minimum public health standards.



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Gatherings for necrological services, wakes, merriment, funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 shall be allowed, provided that the same shall be limited to immediate family members, upon satisfactory proof of their relationship with the deceased and with full compliance with the prescribed minimum public health standards for the duration of the activity.

11. Face-to-face or in-person classes shall be suspended. The education sector shall operate in accordance with the guidelines of the CHED for higher education, TESDA for technical vocational education and training, DepEd for basic education.
12. The road, rail, maritime, and aviation sectors of public transportation shall be allowed to operate at such capacity and protocols in accordance with guidelines issued by the DOT. The use of active transportation such as biking is encouraged.
13. Law enforcement agencies shall recognize any of the following IDs: (i) IATF IDs issued by the regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over permitted establishments or persons, (ii) valid IDs or other pertinent documentation issued by accrediting organizations or establishments allowed under ECQ, and, (iii) if required by the LGU, local IDs for availing of essential goods and services. No other IDs or passes specifically exempting persons from community quarantine shall be required of workers of permitted establishments and/or offices without prejudice to requiring the presentation of other documents establishing the nature of their work. *(As amended by Paragraph B IATF Resolution No. 46, June 15, 2020, and Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*
14. The movement of cargo/delivery vehicles, as well as vehicles used by public utility companies, shall be unhampered. Shuttle services of permitted establishments shall not be subject to an ID system, but shall maintain compliance with minimum public health standards. *(As amended by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*
15. Private corporations are encouraged to process payrolls online. Payroll managers and such other employees required for the processing of payroll shall be allowed to travel to their respective offices during MECQ. *(As amended by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106 B, March 28, 2021)*
16. Individual outdoor exercises such as outdoor walks, jogging, running or biking, are allowed within the general area of their residence, e.g. within the barangay, *barok*, subdivision, and/or village. Provided, that the minimum public health standards and precautions such as the wearing of face masks, and the maintenance of social distancing protocols are observed.





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17. Uniform curfew hours may be imposed by LGUs, subject to the guidelines issued by the DILG. Workers, cargo vehicles, public transportation, and operating hours of permitted establishments, however, shall not be restricted by such curfew.
18. Any violation of the foregoing prohibitions shall constitute non-cooperation of the person or entities punishable under Section 9 par. (d) or (e), as the case may be, of Republic Act No. 11332, otherwise known as the Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. *(As introduced by Paragraph C of IATF Resolution no. 196-B, March 28, 2021)*

**SECTION [4] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER GENERAL COMMUNITY QUARANTINE.** Areas placed under GCQ shall observe the following protocols:

1. Minimum public health standards shall be complied with at all times for the duration of the GCQ.
2. The movement of all persons shall be limited to accessing goods and services from permitted establishments, for work in such establishments, or for such other activities allowed in this section. *(As amended by Paragraph C of IATF Resolution No. 110, April 15, 2021)*
3. Any person below eighteen (18) years old, those who are over sixty-five years (65) of age, those with immunodeficiency, comorbidity, or other health risks, and pregnant women shall be required to remain in their residences at all times, except for obtaining essential goods and services, or for work in industries and offices or such other activities permitted in this Section. Local government units may relax the minimum age range down to fifteen (15) years old, depending on the COVID-19 situation in their respective jurisdictions. *(As amended by Paragraph A of IATF Resolution No. 79, October 15, 2020)*
4. All establishments, persons, or activities permitted to operate, work, or be undertaken during ECQ under Sections 2(4) of these Guidelines shall be allowed to operate at full on-site capacity.
5. All establishments, persons, or activities not permitted to operate, work, or be undertaken during ECQ shall be allowed to operate anywhere between fifty (50%) to one hundred percent (100%) on-site capacity as may be determined by the DTI while encouraging work-from-home and other flexible work arrangements, where applicable. From the maximum set by DTI, the LGUs may lower on-site capacities down to the minimum of fifty percent (50%) as set by DTI depending on the COVID-19 situation within their jurisdiction.



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Notwithstanding the foregoing and without prejudice to previous IATF resolutions, the following establishments, persons, or activities shall not be permitted to operate, work, or be undertaken during GCQ:

- a. Entertainment venues with live performers such as karaoke bars, bars, clubs, concert halls, theaters, and cinemas;
- b. Recreational venues such as internet cafes, billiard halls, amusement arcades, bowling alleys, and similar venues;
- c. Amusement parks or theme parks, fairs/*peryas*, kid amusement industries such as playgrounds, playroom, and kiddie rides;
- d. Casinos, horse racing\*, cockfighting and operation of cockpits, lottery and betting shops\*\*°, and other gaming establishments, except as may be authorized by the IATF or the Office of the President for the purpose of raising revenue for the government; and
- e. Outdoor sports courts or venues for contact sports, scrimmages, games, or activities;

The foregoing is likewise without prejudice to the authority of DFI to issue a negative list of industries that shall remain prohibited even in areas under GCQ. *(As amended by Paragraph B(2)(c) of IATF Resolution No. 41, May 29, 2020, Paragraph B(1) of IATF Resolution No. 49, June 25, 2020, Paragraph E of IATF Resolution No. 51, July 02, 2020, Paragraph C of IATF Resolution No. 56, July 16, 2020, and by Paragraph A of IATF Resolution No. 79, October 15, 2020)*

*\*inclusion in the negative list of industries not allowed to operate suspended pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 114 s.2021 issued on 06 May 2021. May operate Off-Track Betting stations limited to the purpose of selling tickets only pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 117 s.2021 issued on May 27, 2021.*

*\*\*inclusion in the negative list of industries not allowed to operate suspended pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 115 s.2021 issued on 13 May 2021.*

6. All construction projects shall be allowed subject to strict compliance with the construction safety guidelines issued by the DPWH.
7. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall be fully operational and shall operate at a minimum of thirty percent (30%) up to full on-site capacity as determined by the head of the agency, in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations issued by the CSC.
8. The co-equal or independent authority of the legislature (Senate and the House of Representatives), the judiciary (the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Court of Tax Appeals, Sandiganbayan, and the lower courts), the Office of the Ombudsman, and the Constitutional Commissions, to implement any alternative work arrangements, is recognized.



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9. Officials and employees of foreign diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited by the DFA may operate at full on-site capacity.
10. Only hotels or accommodation establishments with valid DOT Accreditation shall be allowed to accommodate guests and clients for legitimate purposes under a state of a public health emergency. The operations of such hotels and accommodation establishments, as well as ancillary establishments within their premises such as restaurants, cafés, gyms, spas, function halls, and the like, shall be subject to guidelines issued by the DOT and the IATF. *(As amended by Paragraph A(2) of IATF Resolution No. 43, June 03, 2020, Paragraph D of IATF Resolution No. 45, June 22, 2020, Paragraph B(2) of IATF Resolution No. 49, June 25, 2020, C(3) of IATF Resolution No. 70, September 10, 2020, Paragraph A of IATF Resolution No. 79, October 15, 2020, and further amended by Paragraph C(2)(4) of IATF Resolution No. 95, January 15, 2021)*
11. Gatherings outside of residences shall be prohibited except for those permitted in CCQ under this Section. Gatherings at residences with any person outside of one's immediate household shall likewise be prohibited. However, gatherings that are essential for the provision of health services, government services, or humanitarian activities authorized by the appropriate government agency or instrumentality shall be allowed.

Religious gatherings shall be allowed up to thirty percent (30%) of the venue capacity. Provided, that there is no objection from the local government unit where the religious gathering may take place. Provided, further, that the LGU concerned may increase the allowable venue capacity up to fifty percent (50%). The religious denominations should strictly observe their submitted protocols and the minimum public health standards.

Gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, and funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 shall be allowed up to thirty percent (30%) of the venue capacity. Provided, that the LGU concerned may increase the allowable venue capacity up to fifty percent (50%). Provided, further, that the same shall be with full compliance with the prescribed minimum public health standards for the duration of the activity.

Visits to memorial parks, cemeteries, and columbaria shall be limited to not more than ten (10) persons per group and not exceeding thirty percent (30%) of the venue capacity. Provided, that the LGU concerned may increase the allowable venue capacity up to fifty percent (50%). *(As introduced by IATF Resolution No. 49, June 25, 2020)*

12. Face-to-face or in-person classes for basic education shall be suspended. The basic education sector shall operate in accordance with the guidelines of DepEd.



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Limited face-to-face or in-person classes for higher education and technical, vocational education and training may be allowed, subject to the guidelines of CHED and TESDA, respectively

13. The road, rail, maritime, and aviation sectors of public transportation shall be allowed to operate at such capacity and protocols in accordance with guidelines issued by the DOT. The use of active transportation such as biking is encouraged. *(As amended by Paragraph D(7)(a) IATF Resolution No. 94, January 14, 2021)*
14. Law enforcement agencies shall recognize any of the following IDs: (i) IATF IDs issued by the regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over permitted establishments or persons, (ii) valid IDs or other pertinent documentation issued by accrediting organizations or establishments allowed under ECQ, and, (iii) if required by the LGU, local IDs for availing of essential goods and services. No other IDs or passes specifically exempting persons from community quarantine shall be required of workers of permitted establishments and/or offices without prejudice to requiring the presentation of other documents establishing the nature of their work. *(As amended by Paragraph B IATF Resolution No. 46, June 15, 2020, and Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*
15. The movement of cargo/delivery vehicles, as well as vehicles used by public utility companies, shall be unhampered. Shuttle services of permitted establishments shall not be subject to an ID system, but shall maintain compliance with minimum public health standards. *(As amended by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 105-B, March 28, 2021)*
16. Outdoor non-contact sports and other forms of exercise such as but not limited to walking, jogging, running, biking, golf, swimming, tennis, badminton, equestrian, range shooting, diving, and skateboarding are allowed. Provided, that the minimum public health standards, and no sharing of equipment where applicable, are observed. Provided, further, that operations of the relevant clubhouses or similar establishments, if any, are compliant with the protocols prescribed by the DTI. For this purpose, those below eighteen (18) years of age and above sixty-five (65), may be allowed outdoor non-contact sports and other forms of exercise  
  
Spectators in all non-contact sports and exercises shall be prohibited. *(As amended by Paragraph A(3)(a) of IATF Resolution No. 43, June 03, 2020, and further amended by Paragraph D of IATF Resolution No. 48, June 22, 2020, Paragraph B(3) of IATF Resolution No. 49, June 23, 2020, and Paragraph E of IATF Resolution No. 56, July 16, 2020)*
17. Uniform curfew hours may be imposed by LGUs, subject to the guidelines issued by the DILG. Workers, cargo vehicles, public transportation, and operating hours of permitted establishments, however, shall not be restricted by such curfew.



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18. Any violation of the foregoing prohibitions shall constitute non-cooperation of the person or entities punishable under Section 9 par. (d) or (e), as the case may be, of Republic Act No. 11332, otherwise known as the Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. *(As introduced by Paragraph C of IATF Resolution no. 196-B, March 25, 2021)*

**SECTION [5] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS PLACED UNDER MODIFIED GENERAL COMMUNITY QUARANTINE.** Areas placed under MGCCQ shall observe the following protocols:

1. Minimum public health standards shall be complied with at all times for the duration of the MGCCQ.
2. The movement of all persons shall be limited to accessing goods and services from permitted establishments, for work in such establishments, or for such other activities allowed in this section. *(As amended by Paragraph A(4)(a) of IATF Resolution No. 43, June 03, 2020, and further amended by Paragraph C of IATF Resolution No. 110, April 15, 2021)*
3. Any person below fifteen (15) years old, those who are over sixty-five (65) years of age, those with immunodeficiency, comorbidity, or other health risks, and pregnant women shall be required to remain in their residences at all times; *Provided*, that all activities and movements allowed under other Sections of these Guidelines for the foregoing persons under stricter forms of community quarantine shall continue to be permitted under MGCCQ. *(As amended by Paragraph A(4)(b) of IATF Resolution No. 43, June 03, 2020, Paragraph A of IATF Resolution No. 79, October 15, 2020, Paragraph B(8) of IATF Resolution No. 84, November 19, 2020, and by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution No. 95, January 21, 2021. Lowering of age-based restrictions suspended pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 96, January 26, 2021)*
4. All private offices may be allowed to operate anywhere between fifty (50%) to one hundred percent (100%) on-site capacity while encouraging work-from-home and other flexible work arrangements, where applicable;
5. The following establishments, persons, or activities shall not be permitted to operate, work, or be undertaken during MGCCQ:
  - a. Entertainment venues such as karaoke bars, bars, clubs, concert halls, and theaters;



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- b. Fairs/Paryas, and amusement industries such as playgrounds, playroom, and kiddie rides; and
- c. Cockfighting and operation of cockpits, except for the sole purpose of conducting *a-sabong* licensed and regulated by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation.

The foregoing is likewise without prejudice to the authority of DFI to issue a negative list of industries that shall remain prohibited even in areas under MGCQ.

6. All construction projects shall be allowed subject to strict compliance with the construction safety guidelines issued by the DPWH.
7. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall be fully operational and shall operate at a minimum of fifty percent (50%) up to full on-site capacity as determined by the head of the agency, in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations issued by the CSC.
8. The co-equal or independent authority of the legislature (Senate and the House of Representatives), the judiciary (the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Court of Tax Appeals, Sandiganbayan, and the lower courts), the Office of the Ombudsman and the Constitutional Commissions, to implement any alternative work arrangements, is recognized.
9. Officials and employees of foreign diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited by the DFA may operate at full on-site capacity.
10. Only hotels or accommodation establishments with valid DOT Accreditation shall be allowed to accommodate guests and clients for legitimate purposes under a state of a public health emergency. The operations of such hotels and accommodation establishments, as well as ancillary establishments within their premises such as restaurants, cafés, gyms, spas, function halls, and the like, shall be subject to guidelines issued by the DOT and the IATF. *(As amended by Paragraph C(2)(4) of IATF Resolution No. 95, January 15, 2021)*
11. Gatherings shall be allowed up to fifty percent (50%) of the seating or venue capacity. Provided, that participants shall strictly observe the minimum public health standards, and the establishments or venues where the gatherings will take place shall strictly comply with ventilation standards as provided for under relevant issuances of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).
12. Face-to-face or in-person classes for basic education shall be suspended. The basic education sector shall operate in accordance with the guidelines of DepEd.



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- Limited face-to-face or in-person classes for higher education and technical, vocational education and training may be allowed, subject to the guidelines of CHED and TESDA, respectively *(As amended by Paragraph A(4)(e) of IATF Resolution No. 43, June 03, 2020, and amended by Paragraph C of IATF Resolution No. 47, June 19, 2020)*
13. The road, rail, maritime, and aviation sectors of public transportation shall be allowed to operate at such capacity and protocols in accordance with guidelines issued by the DOTR. The use of active transportation such as biking is encouraged. *(As amended by Paragraph D(7)(b) IATF Resolution No. 94, January 14, 2021)*
  14. Law enforcement agencies shall recognize any of the following IDs: (i) IATF IDs issued by the regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over permitted establishments or persons, (ii) valid IDs or other pertinent documentation issued by accrediting organizations or establishments allowed under MGCQ, and, (iii) if required by the LGU, local IDs for availing of essential goods and services. No other IDs or passes specifically exempting persons from community quarantine shall be required of workers of permitted establishments and/or offices without prejudice to requiring the presentation of other documents establishing the nature of their work. *(As amended by Paragraph B IATF Resolution No. 46, June 15, 2020, and Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-B, March 28, 2021)*
  15. The movement of cargo/delivery vehicles, as well as vehicles used by public utility companies, shall be unhampered. Shuttle services of permitted establishments shall not be subject to an ID system, but shall maintain compliance with minimum public health standards. *(As amended by Paragraph B of IATF Resolution no. 106-E, March 28, 2021)*
  16. Indoor and outdoor non-contact sports are allowed. Non-contact sports refer to a sport or activity in which participants are physically separated throughout its duration, thus minimizing the possibility of making any form of purposeful or accidental physical contact. Provided, that, where applicable, the minimum public health standards such as the wearing of masks and the maintenance of social distancing, and no sharing of equipment, are observed. For this purpose, those below 15 years of age and above 65, may be allowed outdoor non-contact sports and other forms of exercise. *(As amended by Paragraph A(4)(e) of IATF Resolution No. 43, June 03, 2020, and Paragraph B of IATF Resolution No. 56, July 16, 2020)*
  17. Any violation of the foregoing prohibitions shall constitute non-cooperation of the person or entities punishable under Section 9 par. (d) or (e), as the case may be, of Republic Act No. 11332, otherwise known as the Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations *(As introduced by Paragraph C of IATF Resolution no. 196 B, March 28, 2021)*



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**SECTION [6] POST-COMMUNITY QUARANTINE SCENARIO.** Areas, where no community quarantine is in place, where no community quarantine is in place can be considered as being under the New Normal.

**SECTION [7] GUIDELINES FOR INTERZONAL AND INTRAZONAL MOVEMENT.**

1. As a national policy, all LGUs shall ensure unhindered movement by land, air, or sea of all types of goods and cargoes - including their personnel and delivery vehicles - to and from their destination regardless of existing community quarantine classification.

Personnel of delivery vehicles up to a maximum of five (5) persons, when transporting goods and cargoes, are exempt from any testing and quarantine protocols that may be imposed by the LGUs *en route* to the point of destination. Provided, they undergo the usual symptom screening at the point of destination. *Provided, further,* that strict social distancing measures must be observed, which may include, if necessary, the putting up of additional safe and humane seats or space in the vehicles. *Provided, finally,* that the PNP retains its authority to conduct inspection procedures in checkpoints for the purpose of ensuring that protocols on strict home quarantine are observed.

2. (a) The movement of the following authorized persons outside their residences (APOR), by land, sea, or air, within and across areas placed under any form of community quarantine shall be allowed: (1) health and emergency frontline services and uniformed personnel, (2) government officials and employees on official travel, (3) duly-authorized humanitarian assistance actors (HAAs), especially those transporting medical supplies and laboratory specimens related to COVID-19, and other relief and humanitarian assistance, (4) persons traveling for medical or humanitarian reasons, and those leaving their residence to be vaccinated (with proof of schedule), and persons availing of DFA consular services (with confirmed appointments), (5) persons going to and from the airport including Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) carrying Overseas Employment Certificates, (6) any person whose purpose of travel to the zone of destination is for a work, business, or activity that is also permitted in areas under ECQ, and (7) public utility vehicle operators. The PNP shall be authorized to promulgate and regularly update the list of APORs. Authorized shuttle services shall be allowed to travel within and across areas placed under any form of community quarantine, with priority given to persons rendering health and emergency frontline services. *(As amended by Paragraph A of IATF Resolution No. 79, October 15, 2020, by Paragraph C(5) of IATF Resolution No. 114, May 06, 2021, and by Paragraph C(2) of IATF Resolution No. 131, August 05, 2021)*

(c) Outbound travel of Filipinos, regardless of purpose, may be allowed subject to compliance with the following requirements:

- i. For those traveling on tourist or short-term/ visitor visas, submission of confirmed round-trip tickets and adequate





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- travel and health insurance to cover travel disruptions and hospitalization in case of COVID-19 infections during their allowable period of stay abroad;
- ii. Execution of a Bureau of Immigration Declaration acknowledging the risks involved in traveling, including the risk of delay in their return trip, to be provided at the check-in counters by the airlines;
  - iii. Whenever required by the country of destination or the airline, a negative COVID-19 test taken in accordance with the health and safety protocols of such destination country or airline; and
  - iv. Upon return, they shall follow the Guidelines of the National Task Force (NTF) for the Management of Returning Overseas Filipinos;

The foregoing provisions shall not be interpreted to allow outbound travel by Filipinos to countries where travel restrictions are in place; and finally, this is without prejudice to the exercise of the mandate of the Bureau of Immigration with respect to departure formalities. *(As amended by Paragraph A of IATF Resolution No. 79, October 15, 2020, and Paragraph A(2) of IATF Resolution No. 80, October 22, 2020)*

(c) Repatriated OFWs or returning OFs who have been issued a DOH/BOQ quarantine certificate shall be granted unhampered passage across zones *en route* to their final destination in the Philippines, as well as unimpeded entry to the final LGU of destination, regardless of the mode of transport.

(d) The inbound international travel of all persons, regardless of vaccination status, to any part of the Philippines, shall be governed by the following entry, testing and quarantine protocols:

- i. All arriving travelers shall undergo fourteen (14) day quarantine upon arrival. The first ten days of which shall be observed in a quarantine facility, with the remainder to be completed under home quarantine in their respective local government units of destination;
- ii. Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) testing shall be conducted on the seventh day with Day 1 being the day of arrival. Notwithstanding a negative test result, the arriving traveler shall complete the facility-based quarantine period of ten (10) days;
- iii. The Bureau of Quarantine shall ensure strict symptom monitoring while in the facility quarantine for 10 days; and



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- iv. The foregoing shall be subject to special protocols approved by the IATF or the Office of the President for certain classes of travelers or ports of origin. *(As introduced by Paragraph A of IATF Resolution No. 116, May 20, 2021)*
3. The interzonal movement of persons not authorized outside of residences (non-APOR) between areas placed under GCQ and MGCQ for any purpose shall be permitted subject to the reasonable regulations imposed by the LGU concerned, if any, and which should be submitted to the DILG, or in the case of Boracay Island, subject to those imposed by the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF). *(As amended by Paragraph A of IATF Resolution No. 79, October 15, 2020)*
4. The intrazonal movement of non-APORs for any purpose across areas placed under GCQ or MGCQ shall be permitted subject to the reasonable regulations imposed by the LGU concerned if any, and which should be submitted to the DILG, or in the case of Boracay Island, subject to those imposed by the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF). *(As amended by Paragraph A(5) of IATF Resolution No. 13, June 03, 2020, and by Paragraph A of IATF Resolution No. 79, October 15, 2020)*
5. The interzonal movement of non-APOR between areas placed under MGCQ and New Normal for any purpose shall be permitted subject to the reasonable regulations as may be imposed by the LGU concerned, if any, and which should be submitted to the DILG. *(As amended by Paragraph A of IATF Resolution No. 79, October 15, 2020)*

#### **SECTION [8] GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. LGUs are enjoined to enact the necessary ordinances to enforce protocols contained in these Guidelines and to penalize, in a fair and humane manner, violations of these protocols. Law enforcement agencies are likewise strongly enjoined to observe fair and humane treatment of violators. *(As amended by Paragraph C of IATF Resolution No. 47, June 19, 2020)*
2. All national government agencies and instrumentalities, as well as private sector establishments, shall adopt measures to strictly implement and enforce the minimum public health standards set by DOH and other standards set by relevant government agencies.
3. All persons are mandated to wear full-coverage face shields together with face masks (earloop masks, indigenous, reusable, or do-it-yourself masks, or other facial protective equipment) whenever they go out of their residences, pursuant to existing guidelines issued by the national government agencies and LGUs. *(As amended by Paragraph C of IATF Resolution No. 88, December 14, 2020)*



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4. Acts of discrimination such as, but not limited to, coercion, libel, slander, physical injuries and the dishonor of contractual obligations such as contracts of lease or employment inflicted upon healthcare workers, government frontliners, repatriated OFWs and returning OFWs, and COVID-19 cases whether confirmed, recovered or undergoing treatment, as well as suspect and probable cases, shall be dealt with criminally, civilly, and/or administratively. LGUs are enjoined to issue the necessary executive orders and/or enact ordinances prohibiting and penalizing these discriminatory acts.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions under the different community quarantine classifications as set forth under this Omnibus Guidelines, the IATF may, in exceptional circumstances, suspend the application of the rules or adopt rules applicable to a different community quarantine classification, in order to address the COVID-19 situation in a region, province, city, or municipality.

**SECTION [9] SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** If any part, section, or provision of these Guidelines is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION [10] REPEALING CAUSE.** All IATF Resolutions or previous guidelines on the implementation of community quarantine in the Philippines or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of these Guidelines are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION [11] EFFECTIVITY.** These Guidelines shall take effect immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation.

*Note: Last signed Omnibus Guidelines published on 03 April 2021. Subsequent advisory IATF Resolutions were published individually.*

*Prepared for general reference purpose by:*

*The IATF Secretariat*



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**COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF PERSONS ALLOWED TO TRAVEL WITHIN, TO, AND FROM**  
**AREAS UNDER ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE, ALSO KNOWN AS AUTHORIZED**  
**PERSONS OUTSIDE OF RESIDENCES**

1. Persons traveling to access essential goods and services (such as to buy groceries and medicines, and availing of DFA consular services with confirmed appointments), and for medical or humanitarian reasons, including those leaving their residence to be vaccinated (with proof of schedule);
2. Employees/workers of public and private hospitals, health, emergency, and frontline services, including those working in hospitals, dialysis centers, chemotherapy centers, HMOs/ health insurance providers, as well as disaster risk reduction management officers, public safety officers, and uniformed personnel;
3. Employees/workers of manufacturers of medicines and vitamins, medical supplies, devices, and equipment, including suppliers of input, packaging, and distribution;
4. Employees/workers in industries involved in agriculture (crops, fruits, vegetables, livestock, and poultry), forestry, fishery, and such other components of the food value chain and their workers, including farmers and fisherfolks;
5. Employees/workers of logistics service providers (delivery and carrier services; cargo handling; warehousing; trucking; freight forwarding; shipping, port and terminal operators including contractors in port terminals and ancillary services);
6. Employees/workers in essential and priority construction projects, whether public or private, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), including contractors, subcontractors, and consultants of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) for the construction of the "Build Build Build" flagship infrastructure projects;
7. Employees/workers involved in manufacturing related to food and other essential goods such as but not limited to soap and detergents, diapers, personal hygiene products, toilet paper, and wet wipes, and disinfectants;
8. Employees/workers involved in the manufacturing, distribution, and/or supply of equipment or products necessary to perform construction or maintenance work, such as cement and steel, or spare parts;
9. Employees/workers in essential retail trade and service establishments such as public markets, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores, pharmacies or drug stores, hardware, office supplies, bicycle shops, laundry shops, and water-refilling stations;



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10. Employees/workers in food preparation establishments such as kiosks, commissaries, restaurants, and caterers, but limited to take-out and delivery;
11. Employees/workers in public and private financial service providers involved in the distribution of government grants and anchorage subsidies;
12. Employees/workers in business process outsourcing establishments (BPOs), export-oriented businesses, including mining, and quarrying activities;
13. Public transport providers and public utility vehicle operators, and their workers (i.e. Drivers, Conductors, Terminal Workers);
14. Employees/workers in media establishments and their total permanent staff complement, inclusive of reporters and other field employees;
15. Employees/workers providing dental (emergency cases only), rehabilitation, optometry, and other medical clinics for the treatment of illnesses or injuries;
16. Employees/workers in veterinary clinics;
17. Employees/workers in banks, money transfer services, including pawn shops (only for money transfer functions), microfinance institutions, and credit cooperatives, including their armored vehicle services;
18. Employees/workers in capital markets, including the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Securities and Exchange Commission, Philippine Stock Exchange, Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corporation, Philippine Securities Settlement Corporation, and Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation;
19. Employees/workers of water utilities including their third-party contractors and service providers, building utility services, janitorial/sanitation services, and facilities, including waste disposal services, and property management services;
20. Employees/workers in energy sector establishments (oil, gas, and power companies) and their third-party contractors and service providers, including electric transmission and distribution, electric power plant and line maintenance, electricity market and retail suppliers, and those involved in the exploration, operations, trading, and delivery of any kind of fuel used to produce power, such as gasoline stations, refineries, liquefied petroleum gas stations, and depots;
21. Employees/workers in telecommunications companies, internet service providers, cable television providers, including those who perform indirect services such as technical, sales, and other support personnel, as well as the employees of their third-party contractors doing sales, installation, maintenance, and repair works;



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22. Employees/workers in airline and aircraft maintenance, pilots and crew, including employees of aviation schools for purposes of the pilot's recurrent training for flight proficiency and type rating using simulator facilities; and ship captains and crew, including shipyard operations and repair;
23. Employees/workers in funeral and embalming services;
24. Security personnel licensed by the PNP - Supervisory Office for Security and Investigation Agencies;
25. Employees/workers of printing establishments authorized by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and those contracted by other government agencies;
26. Employees/workers involved in the repair and maintenance of machinery and equipment, for households and establishments permitted to operate under an ECQ;
27. Employees/workers involved in the repair and maintenance of motorized and non-motorized vehicles, including the sale of spare parts;
28. Employees/workers in the leasing of real and personal properties;
29. Employees/workers in the recruitment and placement sector;
30. Teachers, professors, and other staff for purposes of conducting online/offline, and flexible classes, completion of grades, and processing of student credentials, requirements, and documents;
31. Lawyers only when required to provide on-site legal representation necessary to protect rights of persons, whether natural or juridical;
32. Employees/workers of all other establishments, only if necessary for the buying and selling of consumer goods or services via the internet in behalf of such establishment;
33. Employees/workers in agencies and instrumentalities of the government required to work on-site, including government officials and employees on official travel;
34. Officials and employees of foreign diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), whenever performing diplomatic functions and subject to the guidelines issued by the DFA;
35. Employees/workers of hotels and accommodation establishments allowed to operate during ECQ under pertinent rules of the Department of Tourism (DOT);



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36. Pastors, priests, rabbis, imams, or other religious ministers and their assistants conducting religious services through online video recording and transmission, or presiding over necrological services, wakes, innumment, and funerals;
37. Payroll managers and other employees required for the processing of payroll;
38. Duly authorized humanitarian assistance actors (HAAs), especially those transporting medical supplies and laboratory specimens related to COVID 19, and other relief and humanitarian assistance;
39. Persons going to and from the airport, including Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) carrying Overseas Employment Certificates;
40. Repatriated OFWs or returning OFs who have been issued a Bureau of Quarantine/DOH quarantine certificate <i>en route</i> to their final destination in the Philippines;
41. Employees/workers of private shuttle services catering to establishments permitted to operate during ECQ.



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