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# NEWS ALERTS

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE



## SMC todo-halukay sa Tullahan, Pasig River

[NEWS](#)

By [Abante Tonite](#) Last updated Jan 19, 2022



Pinaigting pa ng San Miguel Corporation ang programa nito na linisin at mga ilog ng Tullahan at Pasig na pinaglaanan ng P3 bilyong pondo para mahalukay ang mahigit isang milyong tonelada ng mga basura hanggang sa buwan ng Hunyo.

Kumpiyansa si SMC president at chief executive officer Ramon S. Ang na makukuha nila ang target na ito sa loob ng apat hanggang limang buwan.

Sa ngayon, nasa 3,000 tinelada ng mga basura ang nahuhukay kada araw sa mga nabanggit na ito.

Mula Hunyo 2020 hanggang sa kasalukuyan, uabot na sa 653,434 tonelada ng mga basura ang nahalukay sa mga nabanggit na ilog.

Nasa P1 bilyong pondo ang inilaan para sa rehabilitasyon ng Tullahan River na layong mabawasan ang mga pagbaha sa Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela at iba pang karatig na lugar.

Sa Pasig River naman, target ng SMC na mahalukay ang 3,000 tonelada ng mga basura rito sa loob ng tatlong taon. Kumpiyansa si Ang na bibilis pa ang paglilinis sa Pasig River dahil sa inaasahang pagdating ng mga karagdagang kagamitan sa Marso katulad ng donasyon mula sa NYK Line of Japan na sinuportahan ang clean-up program.



## Konsehal ng brgy., kulong sa pagbebenta ng lumber cut

[PROVINCIALNEWSTOP STORIES](#)

On Jan 19, 2022



Naaresto ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) ang isang konsehal ng barangay at kasama nito sa ikinasang entrapment operation sa Tacloban City sa pagbebenta ng ilegal na lumber cut galing sa 'banned tree species' na mas kilalang 'Magkuno' o 'Iron Wood.'

Kinilala ni NBI Officer-in-Charge Director Eric B. Distor ang naarestong sina Clyde Rey Balaan, barangay councilor at isang Elward Lomongcon.

"Seized from the Subjects were P900,000 marked money, one (1) unit wing van, 12-wheeler truck and thirteen (13) pieces 'Magkuno/Iron Wood' lumbers," saad sa report.

"The wing van and the thirteen (13) pieces 'Magkuno/Iron Wood' lumbers were turned over to DENR-PENRO (Department of Environmental and Natural Resources-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office), Palo, Leyte pending necessary documentation," dagdag pa rito.

Dagdag pa ng NBI, nauna nang nakasuhan sina Balaan at Lomongcon sa Tacloban City Prosecutor's Office sa pa paglabag sa Presidential Decree No. 705, the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines.

"The logs are allegedly coming from the island of Mindanao on board a twenty-footer wing van/truck using the Port of San Ricardo as the point of entry."

"Logs are allegedly distributed in the municipality of Bato, Leyte and Maasin City, Southern Leyte," dagdag pa nito.

Source: <https://www.policefilestonite.net/2022/01/19/konsehal-ng-brgy-kulong-sa-pagbebenta-ng-lumber-cut/>



**Masungi Georeserve**

10 hrs · 🌐

#DAY1 of #WatershedExpedition2022 🚩: Scientists, storytellers, rangers, and citizens go off-trail to study the biodiversity of the watershed and the impacts of ongoing environmental threats. Join us on the field 🏞️ in the coming weeks as we explore the Masungi Geopark Project, our ecosystem restoration project in the Upper Marikina Watershed around the Masungi limestone. 🗨️

This field work aims to gather updated data about flora and fauna inside the landscape, to help #DrawtheLine against the continued demise of the forest and habitats. 🇨🇦 This research is made possible through the support of the Embassy of Canada in the Philippines through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives and the Buhay-Ilang research team. #CanadaFund #BuhayIlang





## Environmental groups oppose Cebu City's plan to build waste-to-energy facility

Published January 19, 2022, 5:52 PM

by [Faith Argosino](#)

The Philippine Earth Justice Center (PEJC) and EcoWaste Coalition have expressed opposition to Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama's plan to put up an incinerator waste-to-energy (WTE) facility.

In a statement released on Wednesday, Jan. 19, Atty. Kristine Joy Argallon of the Philippine Earth Justice Center (PEJC) said the facilities would harm the environment, and likewise aggravate public health and ecological crisis caused by climate change.



photo: PEJC) and EcoWaste Coalition

"Cebu City's strategy on climate and post-disaster resilience should be based on ecological and sustainable principles. We urge Mayor Rama to rethink and scrap his plan of putting up a WTE facility in the city and consider instead investing in renewable energy sources," Argallon said.

Atty. Lievj Alimangohan, of EcoWaste Coalition, said the move by the City government will end up with a heavy financial burden by entering into a contract with the provider of the WTE facility.

"Typical WTE contracts have decades-long terms and contain lock-in provisions that will bind the city to expensive and onerous obligations for a long time. This is an unnecessary expenditure of public funds on a system that is dangerous to public health and the environment," he said.

Alimangohan also said that the city's strategy should be focused on waste reduction, materials recovery, and recycling.

"We hope Mayor Rama and the Cebu City Council will scrap the waste-to-energy plans for the city and reconsider their approach to waste management," Alimangohan said.

Source: <https://mb.com.ph/2022/01/19/environmental-groups-oppose-cebu-citys-plan-to-build-waste-to-energy-facility/>

## A new species of tarantula discovered by Thai YouTube star



By [Katie Hunt](#), CNN  
Updated 1803 GMT (0203 HKT) January 19, 2022



Taksinus bambus is the first tarantula known to only dwell in bamboo stalks.

Sign up for CNN's Wonder Theory science newsletter. [Explore the universe with news on fascinating discoveries, scientific advancements and more.](#)

(CNN)A previously unknown type of tarantula has been discovered in Thailand, and it lives exclusively in the hollowed stems of bamboo plants, surprising scientists.

"These animals are truly remarkable; they are the first known tarantulas ever with a bamboo-based ecology," said Narin Chomphuphuang, a researcher at Khon Kaen University's department of entomology and plant pathology in Thailand, [in a blog post](#).

Thai wildlife enthusiast [JoCho Sippawat](#), who has 2.5 million YouTube subscribers, first came across the tarantula while on a trip into the forest near where he lives in Mae Tho, Mueang Tak district, Tak province, northwestern Thailand, Chomphuphuang said.

Sippawat subsequently emailed an image of the spider to Chomphuphuang, an arachnologist, which is a scientist who studies spiders.

Chomphuphuang immediately thought it was a new species of tarantula -- but it was only after a field trip to survey and study the spider that the creature was officially declared new to science.

## A new species of tarantula discovered by Thai YouTube star

Distinct from all other known tarantulas, it has been declared a new genus and species -- *Taksinus bambus*. It is named in honor of the 18th century Thai king Taksin the Great.



Narin Chomphuphuang, center, takes a photo of the survey team. YouTuber JoCho Sippawat is on the far left.

Tarantulas in Southeast Asia usually live on the ground or in trees. Tree-dwelling tarantulas usually spend time on different types of trees, and this is the first tarantula to live exclusively on a specific plant. The newly recognized spider is the only tree-dwelling tarantula to live in Thailand, the study said.

Chomphuphuang said making its home in bamboo had many advantages for the spider. Bamboo contains moisture that helps the spider maintain its temperature -- especially important for tarantulas, which molt and shed their exoskeleton. The slippery surface of the bamboo also deters predators.

"We examined all of the trees in the area where the species was discovered. This species is unique because it is associated with bamboo, and we have never observed this tarantula species in any other plant," he said [in a news release](#).

*Taksinus bambus* has adapted to life in the hollow stems of bamboo by constructing tube-shaped borrows with its silk as nest entrances. It also constructs silken tubes inside the bamboo into which it can retreat.

## A new species of tarantula discovered by Thai YouTube star



The spiders construct silken tubes inside the bamboo stems.

The tarantulas do not bore holes into the bamboo stems themselves. Instead, they depend on the assistance of other animals.

Bamboo is attacked by numerous animals, including beetles and worms, the study said. Or sometimes the bamboo cracks open as a result of changes in humidity.





## A new species of tarantula discovered by Thai YouTube star

The researchers said there is a lot of wildlife in Thailand that remains undocumented.

Chomphuphuang said that few people realized how much wildlife in Thailand is still undocumented.

"We're primarily on a mission to study and save the biodiversity and wildlife found in these forests, particularly species-specific microhabitats, from extinction," he said.



The tarantula lives in high hill forests in the northern part of Thailand, at an elevation of about 1,000 meters.

"The first step is to inform people about this species and their locality. Then this forest area must be managed and protected for wildlife."

The research was published last week in the journal [Zookeys](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.zookeys.2022.01.019).



## Vietnam's 'crazy guy' aims to save ocean from waste

[Viet Nam News/Asia News Network](#) / 05:56 PM January 19, 2022



SAVIOUR OF THE SEAS: Tr n V n C ng always spares a place on his boat for collected plastic waste. — Photo vtc.vn via Viet Nam News/Asia News Network

HANOI — Every time he goes out to catch seafood, Tr n V n C ng, from Phú Vang District, Th a Thiên Hu Province, collects plastic cans, bottles and bags to raise money for poor students, while contributing to the protection of the ocean.

Over the past 20 years, whenever C ng went fishing, he saw a lot of rubbish in the sea.

"I thought that if garbage was dumped into the sea, sooner or later the environment would be polluted, and the source of fish and shrimp would gradually become exhausted. So, I decided to pick it up and put it on the ship and carry it ashore. I have done this for many years," said C ng.

Endlessly picking up the ocean rubbish has earned him the nickname 'crazy guy'. But he doesn't think he is crazy at all.

For years, C ng has had the idea of using recycled plastic waste to build flood-proof boats to give to the poor, and thereby giving people a sense of protecting the marine environment and a means of transport in the flood season.

"Now, there are not as many fish and shrimp as before. About 50 percent is seafood, the remaining 50 percent is garbage. On many trips to the sea, we pick up more trash than fish," C ng said.

In recent years, the problem of plastic waste at sea in Th a Thiên Hu has decreased but not significantly.



## Vietnam's 'crazy guy' aims to save ocean from waste

"The situation of plastic waste has lessened due to the effect of the 'Green Sunday Movement' launched by the Thừa Thiên Huế provincial People's Committee. However, the change is not much. Many fishermen clinging to the sea like me are worried about the widespread plastic waste," said Cường.

"Every day, people throw trash into the sea, and soon the sea surface turns into a garbage dump. As every household living near the sea does this, others follow. It's sad to see this. Garbage on the shore could be treated by faster, easier ways such as placing public rubbish bins in convenient areas on the beach. Sometimes, volunteer groups come to clean up the trash. But with garbage floating in the sea it comes to an end."

In the rainy season, when ships can't go to sea, there is no one to collect the waste. So after every flood, garbage drifts ashore and piles up. Many tourists are not conscious of preserving the environment, so garbage on the beach is a huge problem.

If this situation continues, it will not be possible to develop marine tourism, and fishermen will also have reduced incomes.



ABSOLUTE GARBAGE: Waste floating in the sea. — Photo vtc.vn via Viet Nam News/Asia News Network

### Raising funds for charity

Some years ago Cường had the idea of collecting garbage in the sea and sorting it to sell to raise funds for poor children.



## Vietnam's 'crazy guy' aims to save ocean from waste

"At first, I collected and sorted garbage to keep the marine environment clean. Later, the number of plastic bottles accumulated after each trip to the sea and were sold to raise money for scholarships for poor children," he said.

Công is also the co-founder of the Club of Young Fishermen and has carried out many meaningful programmes to protect the sea.

"Since knowing that I launch the movement to collect plastic waste to recycle and sell for charity, there have been many organisations wanting to cooperate in promoting the movement of collecting plastic waste at sea," he said.

Lê Hoàn Thành, secretary of the Youth Union of Thuận An Town, said: "Currently, the Club of Young Fishermen headed by Công aims to ensure jobs for fishermen at sea and prevent plastic trash dumping. Members of the club regularly collect waste and the members of Youth Union come to receive and sell bottles to raise funds for poor students."

Chairman of the Thuận An Ward's People's Committee Đào Quang Hùng said that the model had a positive impact on the perception of Thuận An fishermen and the marine areas. Hundreds of ship owners and fishermen are more and more interested in protecting the sea.

Công believes that there is no better solution to protecting the ocean than by improving and raising people's awareness.



NO TURTLE POWER: Plastic waste pollution negatively affects sea life and threatens a host of marine species.  
AFP/VNA Photo

Living by the sea, Công understands the suffering of people when the flood season comes. Water is everywhere, and while some people can afford transportation, many poor people, who still lack food and clothing, can't afford boats to move around.



## Vietnam's 'crazy guy' aims to save ocean from waste

Công said that that marine waste was mainly made up of light and buoyant materials, so could be recycled to design flood-proof boats. He hoped to complete the scheme this year, but for personal reasons, he has delayed until next year.

At present, Công has worked out a detailed plan. He needs to collect a large number of plastic bottles at a gathering area for cleaning. Then, he will glue them together into a solid rectangular block with wood and iron.

He said a flood-proof boat could carry up to 300kg of goods and people, allowing people to safely travel and transport items during the flood season.

Although it is just an idea, Công is enthusiastic about this model. He said that a trip to collect plastic waste at sea would bring three benefits: cleaning the marine environment; raising money for charity; and creating flood-proof boats for the poor.

If 'crazy' people like Công keep doing their bit to protect the sea, the oceans might just have a cleaner, brighter future.

## Why women's leadership is key to climate action

Political and financial commitment is needed to support the contributions of women and girls at all levels.



In 2019, indigenous leader Nara Baré embarked on a tour to Europe to denounce violations against indigenous peoples and the environment in Brazil Image: [Midia Ninja, CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

By Nina Jeffs, China Dialogue  
Jan. 19, 2022

At the COP26 climate summit, the leaders of Estonia, Tanzania and Bangladesh were the first to sign the [Glasgow Women's Leadership statement](#), calling for countries to support the leadership of women and girls on climate action at all levels of society and politics. Yet these three women comprised [nearly a third](#) of all female leaders at the conference, out of 140 heads of delegation.

On Gender Day at the COP, countries including the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada pledged to further [integrate gender](#) into their climate finance arrangements. While the pledges reflect a growing awareness of "gender-responsive" finance, which promotes gender equality, the amount of money mobilised so far falls short of what is needed around the world. Attention to gender in climate finance negotiations remains negligible. Making the Glasgow Women's Leadership statement a reality will require scaled-up funding for women's capacity-building and community-level climate action.

The negative impacts of climate change disproportionately affect women and girls, especially in the global south. This is not due to inherent vulnerability but the result of gender inequalities in the political, social and economic realms that intersect with other axes of social disadvantage, such as race, sexuality, gender identity and disability status. For example, during and after climate-related events, women and girls are [more exposed to gender-based violence](#), and girls are less likely than boys to continue their education. The [Malala Fund estimates](#) that in 2021, climate-related events will prevent at least four million girls in developing countries from finishing their education. When



## Why women's leadership is key to climate action

it comes to employment, women in developing countries are [more likely to work in the informal sector](#), making their livelihoods more vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks.

Despite these challenges, women and girls have a crucial role in achieving the climate targets set at COP26. As valuable members of society, they deserve to participate equally in public life. It is also notable that their participation generates [more effective](#) and equitable climate outcomes, from [sustainable land management](#) to [last-mile solar panel deployment](#). Research demonstrates that due to socially-prescribed gender roles, women [assess risk differently](#) to men and [typically prioritise](#) the welfare of their families and communities in resource management decisions.

Such differences in decision-making extend to national politics: [a 2019 study](#) found that national parliaments with more women pass more stringent climate policies. Measures that improve women's access to healthcare, education and political representation strengthen their adaptive capacity, [enabling their societies](#) to adapt more quickly and easily to the effects of climate change.

Unfortunately, women continue to face barriers to equal participation in environmental decision-making, and women-led community organisations commonly struggle to access climate finance. Support for women's initiatives and access to resources can drive effective climate action that meets the needs of communities.

### Women's participation in environmental decision-making

While women, especially indigenous women and women in the global south, are leading frontline climate action and activism, they are underrepresented in environmental decision-making at all levels. Gender-differentiated tasks, including women's responsibility for most unpaid household labour, and unequal power relations within families and communities, can limit women's opportunities to participate in local environmental governance. The common prerequisite of land tenure for community natural resource decision-making also limits women's input. [UN Women estimates](#) that 64 per cent of women globally do not have equal land rights to men in practice.

## Why women's leadership is key to climate action



A woman carries vegetables in Yangole, Democratic Republic of Congo. Despite women's contribution to achieving climate targets, their access to climate finance remains limited. Image: Axel Fassio/[CIFOR](#), [CC BY NC-ND-2.0](#).

At national and international levels, women continue to face glass ceilings that prevent them from reaching environmental leadership positions. Gender parity in national-level environmental decision-making is rare, and employees of environmental ministries are [on average one-third women](#). Although the gender balance of government delegations to climate negotiations has improved, [UNFCCC research](#) found that men spoke 74 per cent of the time in plenary meetings between May and June last year.

Gender-responsive policy measures can help to overcome these systemic barriers. Land tenure reform can support women's land ownership, inheritance and use rights, for example, by mandating that land registration by couples includes both names. Policies like gender quotas can support women's career progression in environmental institutions. [Investment in social services](#), especially childcare, can lighten the load of unpaid household labour on women, as can flexible working policies and paid parental leave. Creating and enforcing laws and policies against sex and gender discrimination, including gender-based violence, can ensure that climate change spaces are inclusive and safe for all. These measures all contribute to addressing the complex issue of culture change.

Ensuring access to quality education for girls is also a key pathway for gender parity in climate leadership. Girls' education can be a [force for gender equality](#) in families and communities and is [closely associated](#) with a country's female political representation. Climate education for girls, [including technical environmental training](#), can increase their resilience and [build their capacity](#) to critically engage with climate information and lead climate solutions. In developed and developing countries alike, girls' participation in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) education on an equal platform with boys [can enable them](#) to access traditionally male-dominated "green" jobs and contribute to an equitable just transition.



## Why women's leadership is key to climate action

Of course, women and girls are already leading their own solutions to the interlinked challenges of climate change and gender inequality. To scale these up, they need access to climate finance.

### Women's access to climate finance

The integration of gender considerations into climate finance is limited. Due to [insufficient monitoring, reporting and verification](#) of gender in climate finance, data on the topic are patchy, but Oxfam [research](#) shows that only 1.5 per cent of overseas climate-related development assistance identified gender equality as a primary objective and two-thirds of projects and programmes do not consider gender equality in their design, budgeting or implementation. [Of this aid](#), only 0.2 per cent reaches women-led and women's organisations. Liane Schalatek, associate director of Heinrich Böll Stiftung Washington, DC and co-author of a [recent report](#) on the topic, calls this a "shocking indictment", reflecting a disregard by climate funds and implementing agencies that "women-led, women's and feminist organisations not only are very aware of the needs and climate impacts... in their communities, but have also women-led contextualised and localised solutions."

While staff from climate finance institutions [express support for](#) funding gender equality organisations, institutional barriers exist, especially for the global south. The small scale of many women's community organisations can hinder accreditation with, and direct access to, large-scale funders. Due to concerns about budget timelines and transaction costs, [institutional funders commonly only offer](#) large funding packages with stringent timelines.

Gender parity and expertise in financial institutions are important for the design of gender-responsive climate finance solutions, as is [meaningful consultation](#) with women and girls in beneficiary communities. The gender integration targets present in climate finance institutions like the Green Climate Fund can be taken further by making gender considerations mandatory for funding. Improving data collection and transparency on gender integration in climate finance projects, including on how projects benefit people of different genders, can foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among funders and beneficiaries.

Small innovations in climate finance mechanisms can transform access to finance for women's organisations. Direct access channels remove government as middlemen and reduce institutional hoop-jumping for community organisations. Providing smaller funds, more flexible timelines, and capacity-building and institutional support for women-led and women's organisations applying for climate finance can also [support equitable access](#). More loans than grants are typically available, and gender-responsive finance is weighted towards adaptation rather than mitigation programmes. [Improving the balance](#) in these areas can support long-term capacity-building for women's climate leadership.

At [COP26](#), civil society groups celebrated women's climate leadership at the [Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards](#) — from the Imece initiative training women in Turkey to build solar batteries for refugees, to Todos Juntos supporting indigenous women in Guatemala to establish mealworm farms. These initiatives prove that combined solutions to climate change and gender inequality exist — women leaders, new and emerging, just need more support.

## How victims can pay polluters for a win-win result

With smoke haze posing a significant pollution problem for Southeast Asia, a victim-pays approach could result in cleaner air for all.



Smoke haze from forest fires can have economic impacts. Image: Aulia Erlangga / CIFOR



By [Euston Quah](#)  
Jan. 19, 2022

The dry season is the period for slash and burn in Southeast Asia. Each July to October, smoke from agriculture and clearing of forests chokes not only the countries burning ([mainly Indonesia](#)), but also neighbouring countries, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei and Southern Thailand. Forest fires and smoke haze in Southeast Asia have, over the years, resulted in serious [health risks, environmental damage and economic ramifications](#) well beyond borders.

Fining the perpetrators is risky. Boycotts of haze-linked products such as palm oil penalise well-behaved plantations as well as errant ones.

What if, instead, the victims were to pay? Paying polluters to adopt fire-free land clearing practices could be the economic solution the region needs, particularly if countries were willing to overlook narrow national interests and acknowledge the transnational effects of haze on economies and societies.

## How victims can pay polluters for a win-win result

Preventing the economic consequences of forest burning is among the many activities undertaken by developed countries and international institutions like the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank under the label of development assistance.

If those wanting a haze-free life contributed financing, farmers and plantations would find it possible to ditch slash and burn. Payments could be used to fund appropriate land-clearing equipment, and financial incentives and disincentives to small landholders to adopt land-clearing practices without the use of fire. Funding and fund transfer among the stakeholders could pay for fire monitoring and prevention activities in a bid to control and influence the polluters.

On the other side of the ledger are the many tangible and intangible costs associated with transboundary haze. The tangible costs of haze pollution include health costs, productivity loss due to restricted activity days, loss of tourism and its knock-on effects, and the cost of mitigation and adaptation by government agencies and households. Intangible costs may be difficult to measure but nonetheless have a real impact on society, such as general discomfort suffered by the public and loss of enjoyment of outdoor activities.

It may seem unfair — extortionate even — to ask the victims to pay to avoid being harmed. But realistically, many in Southeast Asia may be willing to pay to end the annual haze.

A central tenet of welfare economics sees welfare enhanced if those who are better off can compensate those who lose and still be better off.

The cost of controlling the haze pollution could be shared by the victim nations in proportion to the damage they experience from the pollution. Game theory could be used to set the rules so no country would be tempted to walk away. In 2004, [it was suggested](#) that 93.8 per cent of the victim damages were in Indonesia, 5.1 per cent in Malaysia and 1.1 per cent in Singapore. A calculation of the tangible and intangible costs of the haze impacts amounts to about [S\\$1.83 billion](#) (US\$1.2 billion). If the costs of direct fire damages in Indonesia were factored in as well, the relative proportions of victim damages suffered by each country could then be calculated by dividing the total damage costs to each country over the total costs of forest fires and haze to the region. Therefore they should contribute approximately US\$1.125 billion, US\$61.2 million, and US\$13.2 million a year, respectively. This method only works if the amount paid is less than or equal to the harm suffered. For example, if the cost of reducing land-clearing activities is lower than the cost of the fires for its own country, Indonesia could manage the fires themselves.

International expertise and financial support could improve environmental conditions in Southeast Asia, saving the region's countries billions of dollars while modernising production methods used primarily by small landholders. The benefits of transforming the agricultural sector in Malaysia and Indonesia might deliver spinoffs to other sectors in the economy including agricultural machinery. Over the long term, the health benefits might be considerable and lead to an improvement in the sector's image.

Another source of transboundary haze mitigation funding might be ordinary people who are [willing to pay](#) for not enduring pollution. In 2018, a willingness-to-pay survey found that, for a one-month haze episode, Singaporeans were willing to reach into their own pockets for approximately S\$51.31 if it meant the skies remained haze-free.



## How victims can pay polluters for a win-win result

Calculating the cost of Southeast Asian haze in victim countries would help each country to better decide whether and how much aid to offer Indonesia, and how best to assist sectors hurt by the haze. Balancing the costs of haze pollution damages and the costs of spending on controlling and reducing these damages is important for policy decisions both internationally and locally.



## Did you know that the largest volcano caldera in the world is in the Philippines?

Published January 19, 2022 10:04pm



Did you know that the largest volcanic caldera in the world is located in the Philippines?

According to the National Geographic, a caldera is a “large depression formed when a volcano erupts and collapses.”

As reported by Kuya Kim on Wednesday’s “24 Oras,” the Apolaki Caldera measures up to 150 kilometers and is found underwater on the northeast part of the country.

The volcano is currently inactive, so it poses no threat to areas surrounding the Philippine Sea. Its name is from the ancient Filipino God Apolaki, the god of sun and war.

Meanwhile, another underwater volcano called the Didicas Volcano can be found in Cagayan. It erupted in 1952 and created a small island. Its last eruption was in 1978.

According to Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology–Department of Science and Technology (PHIVOLCS-DOST), there are no recorded active underwater volcanoes to date. – Franchesca Viernes/RC, GMA News



**GMA News** ✓

12 hrs · 🌐

### Oil spill sa Peru

Kasalukuyang nililinis ng mga otoridad sa Peru ang coastal district ng Ventanilla, pagkatapos ang oil spill sa lugar noong Linggo.

Nagmula ang oil spill sa isang barko na tumaob dulot ng malalakas na alon na dala ng pagsabog ng Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apa underwater volcano sa Tonga.

Halos dalawang kilometro ng central coast ng Peru at dalawang beaches ang apektado sa nasabing oil spill. Iniulat ng National Institute of Civil Defense (Indeci) na kontrolado na nila ang oil spill, habang iniimbestigahan na ng Agency for Environmental Assessment and Enforcement kung sino ang dapat managot sa insidente.

📷: Pilar Olivares/Reuters

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# CSC amends interim guidelines on excused absences for COVID-19

Published on: January 19, 2022  
By CSC



QUEZON CITY -- The Civil Service Commission (CSC) amended the interim guidelines on the use of leave credits for absences due COVID-19 quarantine and/or treatment.

In CSC Resolution No. 2101122 dated 31 December 2021, circularized through CSC Memorandum Circular No. 2, s. 2022 dated 18 January 2022, absence from work for every instance of the required quarantine period, isolation, and/or treatment for government workers who are "infected or identified as close contacts of a suspect, probable, and/or confirmed cases of COVID-19 while in the performance of their official functions, (onsite or WFH arrangement)" shall be considered as excused absence. They may be required to adopt a work-from-home arrangement depending on the nature of their work pursuant to the guidelines on alternative work arrangements contained in CSC M.C. No. 18, s. 2020.

Previously, this provision only applied to public health workers or PHWs.

The CSC says there is a need to consider the predicament of government workers aside from PHWs who are repeatedly exposed to COVID-19 in performing their official duties due to face-to-face interaction with clients and co-workers, or due to community transmission.

## Excused absences

Excused absence refers to the period when a government worker is not required to report for work due to required quarantine period, isolation, and/or treatment, and/or announcement of work suspension, but are entitled to pay.

The required quarantine period refers to the prevailing number of days required for a person to undergo quarantine, or separation and restriction of movement while waiting for swab tests results or if the person will become sick. The isolation period, on the other hand, refers to the separation of a person who is sick with a contagious disease for purposes of treatment and monitoring.

## CSC amends interim guidelines on excused absences for COVID-19

Absences incurred from undergoing the required quarantine period, isolation, and/or treatment after official travel from countries with or without localized COVID-19 transmissions or from local areas under community quarantine are considered excused absences. For personal travel, only the required quarantine period may be excused, while the isolation and/or treatment period shall be charged against leave credits.

Absence from work for every instance of the required quarantine period for government workers who are "infected or identified as close contacts of a suspect, probable, and/or confirmed cases of COVID-19 due to personal activities" shall also be considered as excused absence. In both categories, the employees may also be required to adopt a work-from-home arrangement while they are awaiting swab test results or completing the required quarantine period. However, in the event that they become sick, the period of their isolation and/or treatment shall be considered sick leave and charged against their leave credits.

### Charge to leave credits

Absences incurred from undergoing the required quarantine period, isolation, and/or treatment after personal international travel without approved travel authority before or after the declaration of a state of public health emergency due to COVID-19 shall be charged against leave credits.

Absences incurred from undergoing the required quarantine period, isolation, and/or treatment due to personal activities in violation of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging and Infectious Diseases' protocols, shall also be charged against leave credits.

Per the Omnibus Rules on Leave, in the event when employees have exhausted their sick leave credits, the vacation leave credits shall be used instead. If the vacation leave credits are also exhausted, the employees may apply for sick leave of absence without pay.

### Return to work

Employees returning to work should submit to their human resource management office or officer (HRMO) their application for leave, and applicable documents such as:

- certificate issued by government or private physician that the employee has submitted himself or herself for monitoring;
- certificate of completion of quarantine issued by the local quarantine or health official;
- medical certificate clearing the employee to report back to work and medical records showing COVID-19 treatment;
- copy of RT-PCR result for those infected or identified as close contacts of a suspect, probable, and/or confirmed cases of COVID-19 during performance of their official functions;
- copy of barangay contact tracing form for those infected or identified as close contacts of a suspect, probable, and/or confirmed cases of COVID-19 due to personal activities; and
- applicable travel documents such as travel authority, office order, certificate of appearance, laboratory test results, waiver, depending on whether the travel was local or international.





## CSC amends interim guidelines on excused absences for COVID-19

### Responsibility of head of agency and HR

It is the responsibility of office heads to ensure that efficiency and productivity work standards are met, and that delivery of public service is not prejudiced during the required quarantine, isolation, and/or treatment of concerned officials and employees.

The agency heads through the HRMOs shall monitor the implementation of the use of leave credits for absences due to quarantine, isolation, and/or treatment relative to COVID-19 based on the guidelines. (CSC)



## Dolomite Beach oks kay Mayor Isko na gawing vaccination site



January 19, 2022 @ 6:20 PM 12 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Aprib kay Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso sakaling gawing karagdagang vaccination site ang Dolomite Beach sa Roxas Boulevard sa nasabing lungsod.

Ayon kay Domagoso, sakaling lumabas sa pag-aaral na maaaring gawin at ligtas ang mga indibidwal na magpapabakuna dito kabilang na ang mga menor de edad at nakatatanda ay hindi ito magdadalawang isip na idagdag ito sa isa sa kanilang mga vaccination sites.

Ang pahayag ni Domagoso ay matapos itong tanungin ng isang mamamahayag kung posibleng maging vaccination site ang Dolomite beach sa nasabing lugar kasabay ng isinagawang pagbubukas ng Manila Zoo ngayong araw kung saan maaari ding makapagpabakuna ang mga menor de edad na 12 anyos hanggang 17 anyos kasama ang kanilang magulang, guardian lalo na ang mga senior citizen para naman sa kanilang booster shot.

“Bakit hindi? Kung feasible bakit hindi, that’s a very good idea, why not? Safe ba sa mga tao, yun naman ang concern natin lagi e yung safety ng tao, kaya kung pumipili tayo ng lugar pansinin ninyo, secluded halos ang mga lugar, geographically feasible sa gagawing function doon sa particular na action plan,” ani Domagoso.

“Two heads are better than one. Ako nga kapag ganyang suggestion, I consider it okay yang idea ah then if it is feasible why not. Basta ako, in all honesty, lagi tayong maghahanap ng tunay na solusyon. Then after that mabilis ang aksyon,” dagdag pa ni Yorme. JAY Reyes

Source: <https://www.remate.ph/dolomite-beach-oks-kay-mayor-isko-na-gawing-vaccination-site/>



- Headline, Editorial, Column, Opinion, Feature Article



NEWS

DOLOMITE BEACH PLANONG GAWIN VACCINATION SITE

PINAG-IISIPAN ng pamahalaang lungsod ng Maynila na dalhin sa dolomite beach ang vaccination sa Maynila dahil ito ay safe sa mga babakunahan dahil ito ay open-air at malawak ang lugar. Ang planong ito ng pamahalaang lungsod ay makaraang pormal na binuksan ang mass inoculation para sa mga bata at matatanda sa newly-rehabilitated Manila Zoo bilang vaccination hub kasabay ng pagbukas ang Zoo sa publiko. Nabatid na ang vacci-

nation ng mga bata at matatanda sa Manila Zoo ay sakop ang minors na edad 12 hanggang 17 (first at second dose) at senior citizens na gustong mag-avail ng booster shots na kung saan ay may kabuuang 1,000 ang ia-accomodate mula alas-8 ng umaga hanggang alas-8 ng gabi. Maari magrehistro, piliin kung anong petsa ang gusto at hintayin ang real-time text o ang link para sa QR code. Maari din silang magrehistro ng pagbukas ng Zoo sa publiko. Para sa kaniyang vac-

cination proper kung saan kailangang magbigay ng personal details. Para sa mga first dose at booster shots, lahat ng brands ay available at kailangan lamang sabihin ng magpapabakuna ang kaniyang brand choice sa vaccinators. Dahil dito, himikayat din ng punong lungsod ang lahat ng mga magulang na may anak na 5-anyos hanggang 11 na magre-register sa local government's mass vaccination program upang ang kaniyang mga anak ay agad na mabakunahan kapag available na

ang guidelines para sa nasaang age group sa lungsod. Sa ulat ni Manila Health Department chief Dr. Poks Pangan, may 7,412 minors na edad 5 hanggang 11 ang pre-registered para sa nasabing mass vaccination at ito ay para sa kabuuang 189,510 total eligible minors na nakapag-registered hanggang Enero 17.

VERLIN RUIZ



97% COVID-19 BEDS SA PGH OKUPADO NA

OKUPADO na ang 97 porsiyento ng COVID-19 beds sa Philippine General Hospital (PGH). Inihayag ni PGH spokesman Dr. Jonas Del Rosario na 341 sa 350 na kama ay okupado na ng mga pasyente. Samantala, 100 porsiyentong full capacity na ang intensive care unit

(ICU) ng ospital dahil sa COVID-19. Ani Del Rosario, plano ng PGH na dagdagan ang bed capacity. "We are hoping it is on a downward trend already, although we can add a few more beds as long as we have the manpower to support it," ayon sa tagapagsalita.

Kasalukuyang mayroong 284,458 na aktibong kaso ng COVID-19 ang buong bansa nitong Martes. Samantala, mayroong 126,841 active infections ang Metro Manila.

LIZA SORIANO

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE CORAZON MORCILLA FLORES

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE TEODORO MORCILLA FLORES

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT AMONG BEERS WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS AND INTERESTS

Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation MARICOR REGION IV CIVILIAN PORT COMPANY, CALAPAN, BATAVIA CITY... ORDER... The Office will be closed on the dates...

Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation MARICOR REGION IV CIVILIAN PORT COMPANY, CALAPAN, BATAVIA CITY... ORDER... The Office will be closed on the dates...

JOB VACANCY



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GENERAL CLERK (CABUYAO) Must be graduate of accounting or business course, must be physically fit, with knowledge in organizing and sorting office materials...

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PARK OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR (NAGA) Must be graduate of Civil Engineering preferably licensed, with at least 2 years work related experience...

CUSTOMER CARE COORDINATOR (NAGA) Must be graduate of any business related course, with at least 6 months - 12 months of working experience in customer service...

PURCHASING CLERK (MAKATI) Must be graduate of any business course, with experience as purchasing clerk or related is an advantage...

WAREHOUSEMAN (STA. ROSA) Must be college graduate, must be physically fit, and must be computer literate, with experience in receiving, checking, recording, and organizing equipment materials...

5th floor, Dominga Bldg III, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City. Interested applicants may send their resume at alchhd.recruitment@gmail.com

20 JANUARY 2022, Thursday



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**STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND INITIATIVES SERVICE**



## PHL logs additional 22,958 Covid cases; total infections rise to 3,293,625



BY [CLAUDETH MOCON-CIRIACO](#)

JANUARY 19, 2022

1 MINUTE READ



[Bernard Testa](#)

Photo shows a group of children on their way home in Parol street, Barangay San Roque in Cainta, Rizal. Barangay officials in Cainta, Rizal, discourage children from going out of their homes in the National Capital Region as Covid-19 cases soar, according to the latest Department of Health advisory.

The Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday logged additional 22,958 Covid-19 cases, bringing the total number of infections in the country to 3,293,625.

There were also 36,611 recoveries and 82 deaths. Of the 22,958 reported cases, 21,691 (94 percent) occurred within the recent 14 days (January 6 to January 19, 2022).

The top regions with cases in the recent two weeks were National Capital Region (7,861 or 36 percent), Region 4A (4,647 or 21 percent) and Region 3 (2,049 or 9 percent).

Of the 82 deaths, 56 occurred in January 2022 (68 percent), eight in October 2021 (10 percent), 15 in September 2021 (18 percent), one in July 2021 (1 percent), 1 in May 2021 (1 percent), and 1 in January 2021 (1 percent) due to late encoding of death information to COVIDKaya.

This issue, the DOH said, is currently being coordinated with the Epidemiology and Surveillance Units to ensure information is up to date.

Of the total number of cases, 8.2 percent (270,728) are active, 90.2 percent (2,969,853) have recovered, and 1.61 percent (53,044) died.



## PHL logs additional 22,958 Covid cases; total infections rise to 3,293,625

There were 91 duplicates were removed from the total case count. Of these, 64 are recoveries.

Moreover, 32 cases that were previously tagged as recoveries were reclassified as deaths after final validation.

All laboratories were operational on January 17, 2022 but six labs were not able to submit their data to the Covid-19 Document Repository System.

Based on data in the last 14 days, the six labs contribute, on average, 1.5 percent of samples tested and 1.9 percent of positive individuals.



## DOH logs 22,958 new COVID-19 cases as death toll tops 53,000

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jan 19, 2022 4:16:31 PM



VP LENI ROBREDO/FACEBOOK

The Department of Health (DOH) reported 22,958 new COVID-19 infections on Wednesday, pushing the nationwide tally to 3,293,635. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, January 19) — The Department of Health (DOH) reported 22,958 new COVID-19 infections on Wednesday, pushing the nationwide tally to 3,293,635.

Of the new cases reported, 21,691 (94%) occurred within the last 14 days or from January 6 to 19.

The regions with the highest number of new cases during that period were Metro Manila (7,861 or 36%), Calabarzon (4,647 or 21%) and Central Luzon (2,049 or 9%).

The number of active cases or people currently ill was at 270,728, which is 8.2% of the total. Of the active cases, 257,632 have mild symptoms, 8,335 have no symptoms, 2,970 are in moderate condition, 1,487 have severe symptoms, and 304 are in critical condition.

The death toll surpassed 53,000 and is now at 53,044 - which is 1.61% of the COVID-19 count - after 82 more people lost their lives to the disease. Of the 82 additional deaths, 56 occurred this month, while 26 occurred last year: eight in October, 15 in September, and one each in July, May and January.

The belated reporting is due to delays in the encoding of information in the COVIDKaya data storage system, the DOH explained.

Meanwhile, 36,611 others got better, raising the recovery count to 2,969,853 - which is 90.2% of total infections.



## DOH logs 22,958 new COVID-19 cases as death toll tops 53,000

The DOH said it reclassified 32 survivors as among the dead after validation, and deleted 91 duplicates, including 64 recoveries.

Six laboratories were unable to submit their data on time and were excluded from the count. These laboratories contributed an average of 1.5% of tested samples and 1.9% of positive individuals in the last 14 days.

The positivity rate is still high at 43.5% based on 62,531 tests reported on Jan. 17.

According to the World Health Organization, positivity rates should fall below 5% for countries to reopen.





## Omicron kalat na sa 15 lugar sa NCR

[Danilo Garcia](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon  
January 19, 2022 | 12:00am



Health workers conduct house-to-house antigen testing for residents of West Rembo in Makati City on Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022. The activity is part of COVID-19 response program of the office of the Vice President Leni Robredo. DOH Epidemiology Bureau director Dr. Alethea de Guzman, said 15 areas in Metro Manila already have cases of the highly transmissible Omicron coronavirus variant.

The STAR/Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Kalat na ang Omicron variant ng COVID-19 sa 15 lugar sa Metro Manila base sa resulta ng 'genome sequencing' ng Department of Health (DOH).

Hindi naman tinukoy ni DOH Epidemiology Bureau director Dr. Alethea de Guzman ang mga partikular na lugar na nakitaan ng Omicron cases na kaniya nang tinukoy na 'dominant variant' na sa Kamaynilaan.

"Our latest whole genome sequencing showed that the Omicron variant is now the predominant variant in the National Capital Region," ayon kay de Guzman.

Bukod sa 15 sa 17 lugar sa Metro Manila, natukoy na rin ang Omicron sa 13 sa 17 rehiyon sa bansa.

Masasabi umano ngayon na ang pagtaas ng mga kaso ng COVID-19 sa bansa ay dulot ng mas nakakahawang Omicron variant, ayon pa kay de Guzman.

Mas nakatulong pa umano sa pagtaas ng mga kaso ang mas malayang paggalaw ng publiko, pagluluwag sa pagsunod sa 'health protocols', at maging pagkaantala sa pagtukoy at agarang paghiwalay sa mga pasyenteng naimpeksyon.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2022/01/19/2154847/omicron-kalat-na-sa-15-lugar-sa-ncr>



## Philippines detects 492 more Omicron variant cases

[Gaea Katreena Cabico](#) - Philstar.com

January 19, 2022 | 2:27pm



Health workers conduct house-to-house antigen testing for residents of West Rembo in Makati City on Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health reported Wednesday the detection of 492 additional cases of the hyper-transmissible Omicron variant, which is driving the fresh surge in COVID-19 infections in the country.

Out of the 714 samples sequenced by the Philippine Genome Center last week, 68.9% were found to have the Omicron variant.

According to the DOH, 332 of the newly-detected cases were locals and 160 were returning overseas Filipinos.

Sixty-eight percent or 227 of the local cases were from Metro Manila—the epicenter of the latest surge in infections.

Meanwhile, 76 cases were from Calabarzon, 11 from Central Luzon, five from Central Visayas, two cases each from Cagayan Valley, Western Visayas, Davao region, Soccsksargen and the Cordillera Administrative Region, and one case each from Ilocos region, Mimaropa and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Three cases are still active, two have died, and 467 cases have been tagged as recovered. The agency is still verifying the outcomes of 20 other cases.

The development brought the total known Omicron cases in the country to 535.

DOH Secretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said Tuesday that Omicron is the “predominant [variant] in this time period,” especially in Metro Manila.



## Philippines detects 492 more Omicron variant cases

### More Delta, Alpha cases

Health authorities also detected 115 additional Delta variant cases, of which 88 were locals and 27 were returning overseas Filipinos. This brought the number of confirmed Delta cases to 8,612.

Of the additional Delta cases, two are still active, two have died, and 107 have recovered from COVID-19.

One case of the Alpha variant was also found among the sequenced samples. A total of 3,170 Alpha cases have been detected in the country.

Daily cases in the Philippines have reached unprecedented highs in January as an Omicron-driven surge ravages Metro Manila and surrounding provinces. There are currently 284,458 active cases.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/01/19/2154959/philippines-detects-492-more-omicron-variant-cases>



## NCR remains under below Alert Level 4 threshold: Palace

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora January 19, 2022, 5:49 pm



(File photo)

MANILA – The National Capital Region (NCR) has not yet reached the threshold to trigger an Alert Level 4 escalation as it maintains a below 70 percent bed utilization rate, Malacañang said Wednesday.

Based on government parameters, Alert Level 4 is declared when an area's Covid-19 average daily attack rate (ADAR) and two-week growth rate reach high levels, and its health care utilization rate hits the 70 percent mark.

"Kapag pumalo na po ang lahat into high. Ibig sabihin high 'yong ADAR, high 'yong two-week growth rate o critical at high din ang bed utilization rate, which is 71 percent total bed utilization up, then that is the time na i-elevate or escalate na natin to Alert Level 4 (If the three metrics reaches high, the ADAR, the two-week growth rate, and bed utilization rate, which is 71 percent and up, then that is the time we will escalate to Alert Level 4)," Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, acting presidential spokesperson, said in a One Balita interview on Wednesday.

"Sa NCR nasa moderate pa po ang ating total bed utilization. So hindi pa siya angkop at tumatama sa high level of total bed utilization kaya nga po nasa Alert Level 3 pa po tayo (In NCR, our total bed utilization is still moderate. So it does not meet the high level yet that's why we are still in Alert Level 3)," he added.

At present, at least 53 percent of Metro Manila's intensive care unit beds are occupied, including 48 percent of its isolation beds and 60 percent of ward beds dedicated for Covid-19 patients.

Metro Manila remains under Alert Level 3 until the end of January 2022.

The government is also closely monitoring other areas outside Metro Manila, especially Calabarzon, Cordillera Administrative Region, Central Luzon, and Ilocos Region where the ADAR and two-week growth rates are high.



## NCR remains under below Alert Level 4 threshold: Palace

"Mataas ang kanilang two-week growth rate at mataas din ang kanilang ADAR but 'yong hospital bed utilization hindi pa tumatama sa high kaya nananatili pa sa Alert Level 3. So many of the provinces na nasa Alert Level 3 'yon ang binabantayan natin dahil sa indicators na 'yan (Their two-week growth rate and ADAR are high but the hospital bed utilization has not yet hit high level that's why they are under Alert Level 3. We're monitoring these indicators)," Nograles said. (PNA)



## MGA BUNTIS, MAGPABAKUNA MUNA BAGO MANGANAK



January 19, 2022 @ 9:11 PM 9 hours ago

PINAKAMAINAM na magpabakuna muna laban sa coronavirus disease-19 bago manganak ang isang buntis.

Ito'y para maging higit na ligtas ang ina at ang baby sa mga huling buwan ng pagbubuntis at makaraan ang panganganak.

Sinasabi natin ito, mga Bro, sa gitna ng takot ng maraming Pinay na buntis na magpabakuna laban sa COVID-19 sa paniniwalang mapapasama ang kanilang ipinagbubuntis.

Nakakalap ng ULTIMATUM ang pangamba sa bakuna ng mga buntis mula sa mga pilahan nila habang nagpapatsekap sa mga barangay health center.

Mas gusto ng marami na magpabakuna matapos silang manganak.

### KAPAG NA-COVID BAGO MANGANAK

Ayon sa pag-aaral na isinagawa sa Scotland, United Kingdom ukol sa mga buntis na kinakapitan ng COVID-19, pinakadelikado ang kalagayan sa 28 araw bago ang panganganak hanggang sa 28 araw makaraan ang panganganak.

Lalo na sa mga buntis na inilalagay sa mga intensive care unit.

Dito umano nagaganap ang mga pagkakunan, pagkamatay ng baby bago ipanganak at pagkamatay rin ng baby makaraan itong ipanganak.

Lumabas umano ito na resulta ng pag-aaral sa 87,000 buntis sa nakalipas na dalawang taon at 4,950 rito ang na-COVID.



## MGA BUNTIS, MAGPABAKUNA MUNA BAGO MANGANAK

Kapag na-COVID naman ang buntis sa kanyang mga unang buwan, mas kakaunti ang tsansa na masira at mamatay ang baby.

Isinagawa ang pag-aaral na Covid in Pregnancy Study (Cops) ng mga siyentista mula sa ilang unibersidad ng Scotland, New Zealand at United Kingdom at iba pang mga orgnanisasyon mula Disyembre 2020 na pasimula ng pagbabakuna sa UK hanggang sa Oktubre 2021 at iniulat ng BBC.

### 98% HINDI BAKUNADO

Sa kabuuan umano ng libo-libo nilang isinalang sa pag-aaral, 32 porsyento lang ang nangahas na magpabakuna.

At nagmula rito ang mga naging ligtas na ina at baby sa mga araw ng panganganak.

Lumalabas namang sa hanay ng 77 porsyento na hindi bakunado nagaganap ang mga komplikasyon sa pagbubuntis at panganganak.

Isa pa, mula sa mga hindi bakunado galing ang 98 porsyentong inilalagay sa ICU na roon nagaganap ang mga grabeng komplikasyon.

### MIRACLE BABY

Isa sa mga naging ehemplo ng magandang balita sa pagpapabakuna habang buntis ang isang inang nakunan ng pitong beses at nabuntis noong Enero 2021.

Miracle baby ang tawag ngayon ni Nyree Mairs sa kanyang anak na kanyang ipinagbubuntis nang magka-COVID siya.

Laking pasasalamat niya na nakinig siya sa mga doktor na nagpayo sa kanya na magpabakuna.

Naging malusog si baby na kanyang ipinanganak at hindi niya naranasan ang naranasan ng mga hindi bakunado na namatayan ng anak.

### KAYA MAGPABAKUNA, HUWAG MATAKOT

Malinaw sa nasabing pag-aaral na ligtas at epektibo ang bakuna laban sa COVID sa mga buntis.

Mula rito, maging mahigpit sanang kumapit ang mga buntis sa bakuna bilang paraan nila ng ligtas na pangangak at malusog na baby sa panahon ng pandemya.

Mali ang pagsasabing mapapasama ang baby sa loob ng sinapupunan.

Dapat isama ng mga buntis ang bakuna sa COVID sa mga bakuna na itinuturok sa kanila para na rin sa kanilang mga baby gaya ng anti-tetanus at iba pa.

Alalahaning kapag ipinanganak ang baby, hindi na ito pupwedeng turukan ng bakunang anti-COVID hanggang hindi nito naaabot ang edad na lima.



# #OneDENR

Covid-19  
Situation and Response





# DOH COVID-19 CASE BULLETIN # 676

## ENERO 19, 2022

Para sa kumpletong detalye at impormasyon,  
bisitahin lamang ang aming pampublikong site:  
<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

PORSYENTO NG AKTIBONG KASO

# 8.2%

TOTAL NG AKTIBONG KASO  
270,728

PORSYENTO NG GUMALING

# 90.2%

TOTAL NG GUMALING  
2,969,853

PORSYENTO NG NAMATAY

# 1.61%

TOTAL NG NAMATAY  
53,044

MGA BAGONG KASO **22,958**

MGA BAGONG GUMALING **36,611**

MGA BAGONG NAMATAY **82**

KABUANG BILANG NG KASO **3,293,625**

MGA NAGPOSITIBO HULING ENERO 17  
DATOS NGAYONG ENERO 19  
AYON SA REPORTS NOONG ENERO 17

# 43.5%

PORSYENTO NG MGA  
NAGPOSITIBO

# 62,531

BILANG NG  
TINEST

HALOS  
**98.2%**  
ANG MILD AT  
ASYMPTOMATIC  
NA KASO!



KABUANG PILIPINAS  
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION  
PUNO NA BA ANG ATING MGA OSPITAL?

KALAGAYAN NG MGA  
AKTIBONG KASO

|                                      |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ICU BEDS (3.7K TOTAL BEDS)           | <b>49%</b> Utilized |
| ISOLATION BEDS (20.3K TOTAL BEDS)    | <b>51%</b> Utilized |
| WARD BEDS (14.3K TOTAL BEDS)         | <b>53%</b> Utilized |
| VENTILATORS (3.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS) | <b>23%</b> Utilized |

|                                      |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| ICU BEDS (1.2K TOTAL BEDS)           | <b>53%</b> Utilized |
| ISOLATION BEDS (4.9K TOTAL BEDS)     | <b>48%</b> Utilized |
| WARD BEDS (4.5K TOTAL BEDS)          | <b>60%</b> Utilized |
| VENTILATORS (1.1K TOTAL VENTILATORS) | <b>29%</b> Utilized |

|                    |
|--------------------|
| 8,335 Asymptomatic |
| 257,632 Mild       |
| 2,970 Moderate     |
| 1,487 Severe       |
| 304 Critical       |

### DOH HOSPITAL HOTLINES

For health concerns and emergencies, you may access here the DOH hospital hotlines across the country:

[bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines](https://bit.ly/DOHHospitalHotlines)

### DOH ONE HOSPITAL COMMAND CENTER (OHCC) HOTLINES

• 1555 • 0915-777-7777  
• 02-886-505-00 • 0919-977-3333

[bit.ly/OHCCHotline](https://bit.ly/OHCCHotline)

### DOH TELEMEDICINE CONTACT DETAILS

[bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine](https://bit.ly/DOHTelemedicine)

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MC No. 2, s. 2022

#### MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

**TO :** ALL HEADS OF CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES; DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS AND AGENCIES OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT; LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS; GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS WITH ORIGINAL CHARTERS; AND STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

**SUBJECT :** Amendment to the Revised Interim Guidelines on the Use of Leave Credits for Absences Due to Quarantine and/or Treatment of COVID-19

Pursuant to **CSC Resolution No. 2101122** promulgated on **31 December 2021**, the Commission, in consideration of the predicament of government officials and employees aside from PHWs who are repeatedly exposed to COVID-19 while in the performance of official duties and due to community transmission, adopts the following Amendment to the Revised Interim Guidelines on the Use of Leave Credits for Absences Due to Quarantine and/or Treatment of COVID-19 provided under CSC Resolution No. 2000522:

#### 1.0 Purpose

These revised guidelines provide for the procedure of availment of leave privileges for absences incurred in relation to the required period of quarantine, **isolation** and/or treatment of public sector officials and employees relative to the COVID-19.

Moreover, said guidelines seek to contribute to ensuring that precautionary measures are adopted in government agencies to avoid the spread of the said virus in the public sector workplace.

Further, since the requirement to go on quarantine, **isolation and/or treatment** are vital health protocols imposed by the IATF-EID for the containment of the virus, and with the government's relaxation of quarantine measures in the majority areas of the country, more government officials and employees became more exposed to COVID-19 due to face-to-face interaction with clients and co-workers **and community transmission**.

Bawat Kawani, Lingkod Bayani

For equity and fairness, it is imperative that the required quarantine, **isolation**, and/or treatment due to repeated exposure to the COVID-19 of government officials and employees aside from PHWs shall be deemed excused absences.

## 2.0 Scope and Coverage

These guidelines shall apply to all public sector officials and employees regardless of status of appointment (permanent, temporary, provisional, substitute, coterminous, casual, contractual or fixed term) including local elective officials.

## 3.0 Guidelines

- 3.1 It is the responsibility of each government official/employee or any individual serving the public sector to ensure adherence to Inter-Agency Task Force in the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) and/or Department of Health (DOH) guidelines, observance of the Minimum Public Health Standards (MPHS) at all times, and utilization of the necessary measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 infection in the public sector workplace.
- 3.2 All officials and employees in the public sector who came from official or personal travel from countries with or without localized COVID-19 transmissions shall undergo the **required quarantine<sup>1</sup>**, **subject to the prevailing IATF-EID and/or DOH guidelines.**
- 3.3 All officials and employees in the public sector who came from official or personal local travel who were categorized as **suspect<sup>2</sup>**, **probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19 shall be isolated<sup>3</sup> in the proper facility depending on the severity of their symptoms, subject to IATF-EID and/or DOH guidelines.**

<sup>1</sup> **Quarantine** -refers to the separation and movement restrictions of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. Hence, quarantine intends to keep individuals under observation to see if they will develop COVID-19 signs or symptoms or if they will test positive for COVID-19.

<sup>2</sup> **Suspect Case** – refers to any of the following:

- a. A person who meets the clinical AND epidemiologic criteria:

Clinical criteria:

1. Acute onset of fever AND cough OR;
2. Acute onset of ANY THREE OR MORE of the following signs or symptoms: fever, cough, general weakness/fatigue, headache, myalgia, sore throat, coryza, dyspnea, anorexia/nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, altered mental status;

Epidemiological criteria:

1. Residing or working in an area with high risk of transmission of the virus; for example, closed residential settings and humanitarian settings, such as camp and camp-like settings for displaced persons, any time within the 14 days prior to symptom onset; OR
2. Residing in or travel to an area with community transmission anytime within the 14 days prior to symptom onset; OR
3. Working in a health setting, including within health facilities and within households, anytime within the 14 days prior to symptom onset.

- b. A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (SARI: acute respiratory infection with history of fever or measured fever of > 38 C, and cough; with onset within the last 10 days and who requires hospitalization).

<sup>3</sup> **Isolation** -refers to the separation of sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. Therefore, isolation intends to treat and monitor suspect, probable, and confirmed cases.

3.4 All officials and employees in the public sector who are identified as **close contact<sup>4</sup> of any of the following** shall undergo the required quarantine in their homes, agency-supported accommodation, or designated quarantine facility, **subject to the prevailing IATF-EID and/or DOH guidelines:**

- a. **probable case<sup>5</sup>,**
- b. **confirmed COVID-19 case<sup>6</sup>, and**
- c. **inbound international travelers**

3.5 Absence from work due to the required period of quarantine, **isolation and/or treatment for the COVID-19**, as applicable, shall be treated, as follows:

| Categories  | Nature of Absence from Work; Applicable Leave of Absence  | Procedure Upon Return to Work   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Government officials and employees coming from official or personal travel from countries with or without localized COVID-19 transmissions who underwent the required quarantine period, isolation and/or treatment for COVID-19 | For those on official travel under categories 1 and 2, absence from work during the <b>required quarantine period<sup>7</sup></b> , isolation and/or treatment, for every instance, shall be considered as excused absence <sup>7</sup> (required quarantine leave, isolation and/or COVID-19 | Submit to agency's HR office/Unit the following:<br><br>1. Application for Leave of absence<br><br>2. Certificate issued by government/ |

<sup>4</sup> **Close Contact** – refers to a person who has experienced any one of the following exposures during the 2 days before and the 14 days after the onset of symptoms of a suspect, probable or confirmed case:

- a. Face-to face contact with a probable or confirmed case within one (1) meter and for more than 15 minutes;
- b. Direct physical contact with a probable or confirmed case;
- c. Direct care for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without using proper personal protective equipment (PPE) OR
- d. Other situations as indicated by local risk assessments.

<sup>5</sup> **Probable case** - A patient who meets clinical criteria: 1. Acute onset of fever AND cough OR 2. Acute onset of ANY THREE OR MORE of the following signs or symptoms: fever, cough, general weakness/fatigue, headache, myalgia, sore throat, coryza, dyspnea, anorexia/nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, altered mental status; AND is

- a. a contact of a probable or confirmed case, or epidemiologically linked to a cluster of cases which has had at least one confirmed case identified within that cluster. Epidemiologically linked refers to exposure of a suspect case to a confirmed case which occurred within 2-14 days prior to the suspect case's onset of illness. This is based on current available data on COVID-19 incubation period.
- b. a suspect case (described below) with chest imaging showing findings suggestive of COVID-19 disease
- c. a person with recent onset of anosmia (loss of smell) or ageusia (loss of taste) in the absence of any other identified cause
- d. Death, not otherwise explained, in an adult with respiratory distress preceding death AND who was a contact of a probable or confirmed case or epidemiologically linked to a cluster which has had at least one confirmed case identified within that cluster.

<sup>6</sup> **Confirmed COVID-19 case** refers to a person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

<sup>7</sup> **Excused Absence** as used in this Resolution shall refer to the period when government personnel are not required to report for work (required quarantine and/or treatment, and work suspension), but are entitled to pay, as declared by the President or the appropriate and competent authorities.

| Categories   | Nature of Absence from Work; Applicable Leave of Absence   | Procedure Upon Return to Work  |
|--|--|--|
| <p>2. Government officials and employees coming from official or personal local travel from areas under community quarantine who underwent the required quarantine period, isolation and/or treatment for COVID-19</p>   | <p>treatment leave) <b>subject to the provisions of 3.7 hereunder.</b></p> <p>For those on personal travel under categories 1 and 2, absence from work for <b>every instance of the required quarantine period* shall be considered as excused absence (required quarantine leave) subject to the provisions of 3.7 hereunder.</b></p> <p>However, the period of their isolation and/or treatment shall be considered sick leave chargeable against their leave credits, if any.</p> <p>In case work suspension is declared during the required period of isolation and/or treatment, it shall be considered excused absence and shall be not chargeable against their earned leave credits.</p> | <p>private physician that he/she has submitted himself/ herself for monitoring/ investigation, as applicable, (<b>For close contact<sup>2</sup></b>);</p> <p>3. Completion of Quarantine Certificate issued by the local quarantine/ health official;</p> <p>4. Medical Certificate that he/she is cleared to report back to work;</p> <p>and</p> <p>Medical Records showing that he/she was treated of the COVID-19 signed by the attending physician (<i>for those under treatment of COVID-19</i>).</p> |
| <p>3. Government officials and employees who are infected or identified as close contacts of a suspect, probable and/or confirmed cases of COVID-19 while in the performance of their official functions (onsite or WFH arrangement) and underwent the required quarantine period, isolation and/or treatment for COVID-19</p> | <p>Absence from work for <b>every instance of the required quarantine period*</b>, isolation and/or treatment for COVID-19 shall be considered as excused absence (required quarantine leave, isolation and/or COVID-19 treatment leave) <b>subject to the provisions of 3.7 hereunder.</b></p>  | <p>5. Copy of RT-PCR test result. (<b>For those under Category 3</b>)</p>  |

| Categories   | Nature of Absence from Work; Applicable Leave of Absence   | Procedure Upon Return to Work   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>4. Government officials and employees who are infected or identified as close contacts of a suspect, probable and/or confirmed cases of COVID-19 due to personal activities and underwent the required quarantine period, isolation and/or treatment for COVID-19</p> | <p>Absence from work for <b>every instance of the required quarantine period*</b> shall be considered as excused absence (required quarantine leave) <b>subject to the provisions of 3.7 hereunder.</b></p> <p>However, the period of their isolation and/or treatment shall be considered sick leave chargeable against their leave credits, if any.</p> <p>For personal activities in violation of IATF-EID protocols, absence from work for the <b>required quarantine period*</b>, isolation and/or treatment of COVID-19, shall be considered as sick leave chargeable against their leave credits, if any.</p> <p>In case work suspension is declared during the required period of quarantine, isolation and/or treatment (as indicated in 2nd and 3rd paragraphs hereof), it shall be considered excused absence and shall be not chargeable against their earned leave credits.</p> | <p>6. Copy of Vaccination Card (For those fully vaccinated)</p> <p>7. Copy of Barangay Contact Tracing form for those under Category 4, who are identified as close contacts with a suspect, probable and/or confirmed cases of COVID-19.</p> |

| Categories   | Nature of Absence from Work; Applicable Leave of Absence  | Procedure Upon Return to Work |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| 5. Government officials and employees, on personal travel from countries WITHOUT APPROVED TRAVEL AUTHORITY BEFORE OR AFTER the declaration of THE STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19 threat, who underwent the required period of quarantine, <b>isolation</b> and/or treatment for COVID-19 | Absence from work during the <b>required quarantine period*</b> , <b>isolation</b> and/or treatment for COVID-19 shall be considered as sick leave and shall be deducted from their earned sick leave credits, if any.<br><br>However, in case work suspension is declared during the required period of quarantine, isolation and/or treatment, it shall be considered excused absence and shall not be chargeable against their leave credits without prejudice to administrative sanctions as determined by their respective agency/office head. |                               |

\* *Subject to prevailing IATF-EID and/or DOH guidelines*

- 3.6 In the event of circumstances abovementioned wherein the employee has exhausted his/her sick leave credits, Section 56 of the Omnibus Rules on Leave shall apply allowing the use of vacation leave credits in lieu of sick leave credits. In case the vacation leave credits have been exhausted, the employee may apply for sick leave of absence without pay.
- 3.7 **Government officials and employees who are identified as close contacts of suspect, probable and/or confirmed case of COVID-19 or those asymptomatic and underwent the required quarantine while waiting for the result of the swab test administered upon him/her or completing the required quarantine as prescribed by the IATF-EID and/or DOH may be required to adopt a Work-from-Home arrangement depending on the nature of work of the employee pursuant CSC MC No. 18 s. 2020<sup>8</sup>.**
- 3.8 Government officials and employees under Categories 1, 2, 3 or 4<sup>9</sup> whose absences should have been considered excused absences under the

<sup>8</sup> Amendment to the Revised Interim Guidelines for Alternative Work Arrangements and Support Mechanisms for Workers in the Government during the Period of State of Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19 Pandemic

<sup>9</sup> Required 14-day quarantine period only

herein guidelines but were deducted against their leave credits prior to the issuance of these guidelines can have the said leave credits restored through their respective agencies' Human Resource/Personnel Office/s/Units.

- 3.9** The DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-0512 dated November 26, 2020, and DOH Department Circular No. 2021-0070 dated 16 February 2021 shall apply. Moreover, future instructions/advisories issued by the Office of the President based on the recommendation/s of the IATF-EID on the assessment and management of COVID-19 shall also be subsequently applied. For announcements and public advisories, you may visit the following official DOH channels:

- a. Website: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV>
- b. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDOHgov/>
- c. Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DOHgov>

- 3.10** Office heads shall also ensure that efficiency and productivity work standards are met, and that delivery of public service is not prejudiced during the required quarantine and/or treatment of concerned officials and employees.

- 3.11** The following documents may be required in support of absences due to required quarantine period or treatment in relation to COVID-19:

| Documents                                   | On Official Business | Personal Travel |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| Travel Authority ( <i>International</i> )   | /                    | /               |
| Office Order ( <i>International/Local</i> ) | /                    | x               |
| Certificate of Appearance ( <i>Local</i> )  | /                    | x               |
| Laboratory Test Results                     | /                    | /               |
| Waiver                                      | x                    | /               |
| Other Travel Documents                      | /                    | /               |

#### 4.0 Responsibilities of the Agency Head

The agency head through the Human Resource Management Office/Officer shall monitor the implementation of the use of leave credits for absences due to quarantine, **isolation** and/or treatment relative to COVID-19 based on herein guidelines.

#### 5.0 Repealing Clause

All other existing guidelines which are inconsistent herewith are deemed modified accordingly.



## 6.0 Effectivity

The guidelines under CSC Resolution No. 2101122 dated December 31, 2021 shall take effect retroactively on March 16, 2020, the start of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in Luzon, and shall remain in force until the State of Public Health Emergency and the Community Quarantine has been lifted by the Office of the President.

  
**ALICIA dela ROSA - BALA**  
Chairperson

18 January 2022

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