



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

RESOLUTION NO. 91

Series of 2020

December 28, 2020

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

WHEREAS, Section 2(b) of Executive Order No. 168 mandates the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases to prevent and/or minimize the entry of suspected or confirmed patients with emerging infectious diseases into the country;

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020, recognizing the threat of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) to national security, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No. 922 (s. 2020) placing the entire Philippines under a State of Public Health Emergency;

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Philippines was placed under the State of Calamity for six (6) months through Proclamation No. 929 (s. 2020);

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2020, the President issued Proclamation No. 1021 (s.2020) extending the period of the State of Calamity throughout the Philippines until September 21, 2021;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health received reports regarding a new variant of the SARS-CoV-2 (B.1.1.7 or VUI 2020/12/01) spreading in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom);

WHEREAS, on December 22, 2020, the Department of Health Technical Advisory Group, the Philippine Genome Center, the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, UP - National Institutes of Health, and the World Health Organization Country Office convened to discuss the reported new variant of the SARS-CoV-2, and thereafter submitted recommendations to the Department of Health;

WHEREAS, the implementation of proactive measures is necessary to ensure the utmost protection of the health of the Filipino people.



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the IATF approves the following recommendations of the Department of Health, subject to approval/ratification/modification by the Office of the President:

A. The temporary suspension of flights from, and the prohibition of entry to all travelers from or transiting through, the United Kingdom imposed pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 90 issued on December 23, 2020, is hereby extended until January 15, 2021;

B. All travelers coming from, or transiting through the countries enlisted hereafter shall likewise be prohibited from entering the country effective 0001H of December 30, 2020, until January 15, 2021. Restrictions as to travelers coming from countries that report the new strain shall be imposed by the Office of the President upon the joint recommendations of the Department of Health and the Department of Foreign Affairs:

1. Denmark;
2. Ireland;
3. Japan;
4. Australia;
5. Israel;
6. The Netherlands;
7. China, including Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions;
8. Switzerland;
9. France;
10. Germany;
11. Iceland;
12. Italy;
13. Lebanon;
14. Singapore;
15. Sweden;
16. South Korea;
17. South Africa;
18. Canada; and
19. Spain.

C. Likewise effective immediately, passengers already in transit from the countries under Paragraph B with the reported new variant and all those who have been to the



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same within 14 days immediately preceding arrival to the Philippines, who arrive before 0001H of December 30, 2020, shall not be subject to the above restriction, but shall nevertheless be required to undergo stricter quarantine and testing protocols i.e. the observation of an absolute facility-based fourteen-day quarantine period notwithstanding a negative Reverse Transcription - Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) result;


- D. Outbound travel to countries with reported new variants shall be subject to the existing exit protocols of the Philippines as well as entry protocols of the respective countries;
- E. Laboratories at points of entry are directed to submit the specimens of travelers from countries with reported cases of the new variant to the Philippine Genome Center, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, and the University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health for genome sequencing. Further, RITM is directed to develop a Standard Operating Procedure/Response Protocol for reports of new variants and strains of SARS-CoV-2;
- F. The Bureau of Quarantine and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration are directed to ensure strict adherence to quarantine and testing protocols for returning Filipinos and Overseas Filipino Workers and provide line list to Local Government Units (LGUs) to ensure completion and monitoring of 14-day quarantine and DOH COVID-19 Surveillance and Quick Action Unit for case profile and trend analysis; and
- G. The Department of the Interior and Local Government, through the LGUs, is directed to ensure that **all** other inbound international travelers from countries not covered by Paragraph (A) and (B) of this Resolution strictly finish the 14-day quarantine following the prescribed quarantine protocols which allow home quarantine after testing negative via RT-PCR at the point of entry.


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 91st Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, held this 28th of December 2020 *via* video conference.


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


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



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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that:

1. I am presently an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health;
2. I am the interim OIC-Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases created under Executive Order No. 168, series of 2014 and chaired by the Department of Health (DOH);
3. The IATF Secretariat holds office in the DOH Main Office, San Lazaro Compound, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila;
4. I am the custodian of the records of the IATF, including the Minutes of Meetings and Resolutions;
5. In a Special Meeting of the IATF held on **28 December 2020** via teleconference during which a quorum was present and acted throughout, IATF Resolution No. **91** was unanimously approved and adopted;
6. The foregoing resolution has been signed by Secretary Francisco T. Duque III upon the authority of the IATF Members;
7. The aforesaid resolution has not been altered, modified nor revoked and the same is now in full force and effect;
8. I am executing this Certification for whatever legitimate purpose this may serve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this **28th** day of December 2020, Manila.


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