

**Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang**

MEMORANDUM FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FOR : **THE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS**
Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging
Infectious Diseases (IATF)

SUBJECT : **MEASURES TO BE OBSERVED RELATIVE TO THE SARS-
COV-2 SOUTH AFRICAN VARIANT**

DATE : 08 JAN 2021

With reference to IATF Resolution No. 93 (s. 2021) dated 07 January 2021, recommending measures to be observed relative to a new COVID-19 variant, namely, the South African variant (501.V2), which has been detected in South Africa, Japan, Finland, Norway, the United Kingdom, and Austria, this Office hereby **directs** all relevant agencies to implement the following:

- A. Foreign passengers coming from or who have been to **Austria*** within 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines shall be prohibited from entering the country effective 0001H of 10 January 2021 Manila time until 15 January 2021;
- B. Effective immediately, foreign passengers coming from, or who have been to Austria within 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, arriving before 0001H of 10 January 2021 Manila time, shall not be prohibited from entering the Philippines but shall be required to undergo an absolute facility-based 14-day quarantine period notwithstanding a negative Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) result;
- C. Likewise effective immediately, Filipino citizens coming from, or who have been to Austria within 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, including those arriving after 0001H of 10 January 2021 Manila time, shall not be prohibited from entering the country, but shall be required to undergo an absolute facility-based 14-day quarantine period notwithstanding a negative RT-PCR result;
- D. Filipino and foreign passengers merely transiting through Austria shall be covered by the rules as provided in paragraph II of the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 31 December 2020;
- E. The rules on incoming unaccompanied minor Filipino passengers as provided in paragraph II of the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary, dated 05 January 2021 shall also apply to such passengers coming from or who have been to

* South Africa, Japan, Finland, Norway, and the United Kingdom need not be mentioned further in this directive as they are already covered by the restrictions imposed in the Memoranda from this Office dated 29 December 2020, 31 December 2020, and 05 January 2021, relative to the SARS-CoV-2 variant (B.1.1.7 or VUI 2020/12/01), first detected in the United Kingdom.

Austria, with the prohibition on entry taking effect on 0001H of 10 January 2021 Manila time;

- F. The Task Group on Returning Overseas Filipinos of the National Task Force against COVID-19, and all Local Government Units (LGUs), are directed to make the necessary preparations for the implementation of strict quarantine and isolation in health facilities for those arriving, and for LGU-led monitoring for those quarantining at home, after 15 January 2021. This is without prejudice to the extension of the travel restrictions relevant to the UK and South African variants beyond such date, upon approval of the IATF.

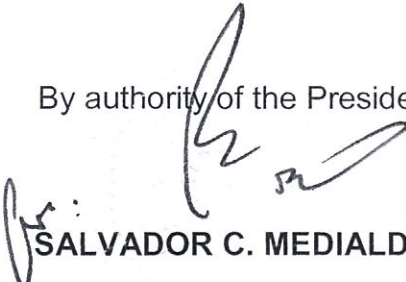
Existing prohibitions and procedures on entry generally applicable to arriving passengers, insofar as consistent with the foregoing, shall continue to be implemented.

The IATF may provide rules and regulations to implement this and related directives, which may include reasonable exceptions to the entry restrictions and protocols imposed by this Office in relation to the South African variant.

Restrictions as to travelers coming from other countries that report the presence of the South African variant may be imposed by the Office of the President upon the joint recommendation of the Department of Health and the Department of Foreign Affairs, or of the IATF.

For strict compliance.

By authority of the President:


SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA

