



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

RESOLUTION NO. 140

Series of 2021

September 23, 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 (b) 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 10, 2021, the President issued Proclamation No. 1218 (s.2021) further extending the period of the State of Calamity throughout the Philippines until September 12, 2022, unless earlier lifted or extended as circumstances may warrant;

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. In order to further improve reporting of COVID-19 cases, the Regional IATFs and Task Forces are directed to monitor the allocation and utilization of rapid antigen kits. Moreover, to assure the accuracy of topline numbers being reported, the identified units are directed as follows:



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1. The Department of Health National Capital Region Center for Health Development is directed to facilitate registration of facilities using rapid antigen kits;
 2. DOH NCR CHD, through the regional epidemiology and surveillance units and the local government units, are directed to ensure that antigen line list be collected and consolidated from health facilities, temporary treatment and monitoring facilities, and their own LGUs for submission to the DOH; and
 3. Consider further augmentation of disease surveillance staff and encoders to ensure that line lists are generated and submitted on a daily basis.
- B. Upon the recommendations of the Sub-Technical Working Group on Data Analytics, the risk-level classification of Abra, Baguio City, Ilocos Norte, and Bohol shall be General Community Quarantine beginning 24 September until 30 September 2021, without prejudice to their reclassification as may be warranted and the declaration of localized Enhanced Community Quarantine in critical areas. For the duration of this period, Abra, Baguio City, and Bohol shall observe and implement the following heightened restrictions:
1. Food preparation establishments such as commissaries, restaurants, and eateries 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%).
 2. Personal care services, such as beauty salons, beauty parlors, barbershops, and nail spas, may operate up to thirty percent (30%) of 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;
 3. Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions (MICE) events and social events in venue establishments shall not be allowed;
 4. Outdoor tourist attractions, as may be defined by the Department of Tourism (DOT), shall remain to be allowed at thirty percent (30%) venue capacity with strict adherence to minimum public health standards;



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5. Under the Safety Seal Certification Program, business establishments awarded Safety Seal Certifications shall be allowed to operate at an additional ten (10) percentage points beyond the prescribed on-site capacity or venue/seating capacity, whichever is applicable;
6. Indoor sports courts and venues and indoor tourist attractions shall not be allowed to operate;
7. Specialized markets of the DOT such as *Staycations* without age restrictions shall remain to be allowed at such capacities, protocols, and restrictions as may be imposed by the DOT;
8. Interzonal travel shall be allowed subject to restrictions of the local government unit of destination. Point-to-Point travel to areas under General Community Quarantine and Modified General Community Quarantine shall be allowed without age restrictions subject to an RT-PCR test-before-travel requirement for those below eighteen years old (18) and above sixty-five (65), and other protocols and restrictions as may be imposed by the DOT and the Local Government Unit of destination;
9. 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.

Gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 **and for the cremains of COVID-19 deceased 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; and



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10. Other provisions of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended, not affected by the foregoing shall continue to be in effect including those on interzonal travel into and out of the 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, as amended, are approved, the specifics of which are as follows:
1. In order to clarify the provisions on allowed individual outdoor exercise as provided for under the Guidelines on the Pilot Implementation of Alert Levels System for COVID-19 Response in the National Capital Region (Guidelines for Alert Levels System), Part I Sec. 3 is hereby amended as follows:

Persons not otherwise required to remain in their respective residences may be allowed individual outdoor exercises. Persons below 18 years old and those above 65 years of age, and those with immunodeficiencies, comorbidities, or other health risks, and pregnant women shall be allowed individual outdoor exercises but shall be limited within the general area of their residence, e.g. within the barangay, purok, subdivision, and/or village.

2. Should the Pilot Implementation of Alert Levels System in the National Capital Region be extended beyond 30 September 2021, the following amendments to the Guidelines for Alert Levels System are hereby adopted but shall take effect beginning 01 October 2021:

- i. Part I Sec 3:

*Persons not otherwise required to remain in their respective residences may be allowed individual outdoor exercises. Persons below 18 years old and those above 65 years of age, and those with immunodeficiencies, comorbidities, or other health risks, and pregnant women shall be allowed individual outdoor exercises but shall be limited within the general area of their residence, e.g. within the barangay, purok, subdivision, and/or village. **Fully vaccinated individuals over sixty-five (65) years of age shall be***



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allowed individual outdoor exercises beyond the general area of their respective residences.

- ii. Part I Sec [3](4):
 1. j. *All contact sports **whether indoor or outdoor,** except those conducted under a bubble-type setup as provided for under relevant guidelines adopted by the IATF, and approved by the LGU where such games shall be held;*
 2. k. *Personal care **establishments offering aesthetic/cosmetic services or procedures,** make-up services, **spas,** reflexology, aesthetics, wellness, and holistic **services,** and other similar **procedures.** Home service for these activities are likewise not permitted; and*
- iii. Part I Sec [3](8):

*Gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19, **and the cremains of COVID-19 deceased** 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.*
- iv. Part I Sec [4], insertion of the provision on the prohibition of all contact sports, as follows:

j. All contact sports whether indoor or outdoor, except those conducted under a bubble-type setup as provided for under relevant guidelines adopted by the IATF, and approved by the LGU where such games shall be held;
- v. Part II Sec [6](4):

*Food and essential items provided that they can only be **picked up and/or** unloaded at border collection points designated by the LGU.*
- vi. Corresponding provisions in the lower alert levels in the Guidelines for Alert Levels System are hereby amended accordingly to the extent applicable. Such other amendments relating only to style and consistency and not otherwise affecting the letter and intent of the Guidelines for Alert Levels System are likewise approved.



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3. The Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines is further amended to allow gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, funerals for the cremains of the deceased due to COVID-19 regardless of community quarantine classification, as follows:

*Gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19, **and for the cremains of COVID-19 deceased** 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.*

4. The Small Technical Working Group composed of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Health, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Science and Technology, and the Philippine National Police shall be reactivated to propose refinements and/or amendments to the uniform travel protocols for land, air, and sea under IATF Resolution No. 101 (s.2021) taking into consideration advancements in information and communications technology solutions and the Alert Level Systems allowing interzonal travel subject to the reasonable regulations of the destination local government unit. With the inclusion of the Department of Information and Communications Technology, the National Economic and Development Authority, and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority as members, the sTWG shall work on the harmonization of documentary requirements across all LGUs and interoperability of available applications (StaySafe.PH, S-PaSS, VaxCert, Traze, etc.);
5. In furtherance of IATF Resolution No. 47 (s.2020) wherein the Philippines participated in the World Health Organization Solidarity Trial for COVID-19 vaccines, all researchers, workers, members, and affiliate staff of the Solidarity Trial Vaccines Team shall be considered as healthcare workers and as such, shall be allowed interzonal and intrazonal movement regardless of community quarantine classification and imposition of granular lockdowns. Target participants and eligible patients who reside in areas under granular lockdowns



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may be allowed to leave their residences strictly for purposes necessary for the clinical trial but shall not leave the area under granular lockdown.

6. In recognition of the Constitutional mandate of the Commission on Elections, all COMELEC officials and employees shall be considered as Authorized Persons Outside of Residence (APORs) while in the performance of their official duties.

In addition and solely for purposes of filing of 1) Certificates of Nomination and Certificate of Acceptance of Nomination for Party-List groups; and 2) Certificates of Candidacy and Certificates of Nomination and Acceptance, as the case may be, of aspirants for the May 9, 2022, National and Local Elections, the following shall likewise be considered as APORs:

1. Chairperson/President or in their absence the Secretary-General or authorized Representative of the Political Party, Sectoral Party, organization or coalition participating under the party-list system of representation;
2. Aspirants or their authorized representatives;
3. Companions as authorized under COMELEC Resolution No. 10717 dated 18 August 2021;
4. COMELEC officials/personnel in connection with the submission of hard copies of the Certificates of Candidacy and related documents/materials to the COMELEC Main Office as authorized under COMELEC Resolution No. 10717.

As APORs the foregoing shall be allowed interzonal and intrazonal movement regardless of community quarantine classification, subject to the presentation of IDs and proof of purpose of travel.

For those that may reside in areas where granular lockdowns have been declared, it is understood that COMELEC shall provide for alternative rules to be observed during the filing.

7. The request of the Miss Universe Philippines to hold their Grand Coronation event in Bohol from September 26 to October 01, 2021, is approved provided



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that the submitted health and safety protocols are strictly complied with and that the Provincial Government of Bohol poses no objection thereto.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Chairperson and the Co-Chairperson shall be duly authorized to sign this Resolution for and on behalf of the Inter-Agency Task Force.

APPROVED during the 140th Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, held this September 23, 2021, via video conference.

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




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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that:

1. I am presently an Undersecretary 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, Sta. 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 **23 September 2021** via teleconference during which a quorum was present and acted throughout, IATF Resolution No. **140** was unanimously approved and adopted;
6. The foregoing resolution has been signed by Secretary Francisco T. Duque III and/or 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 **23rd** day of September 2021, Manila.


ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO-GRANDE
Undersecretary of Health
Head Secretariat, IATF