



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

**GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALERT LEVELS SYSTEM FOR  
COVID-19 RESPONSE IN PILOT AREAS**  
**As of November 04, 2021**

**WHEREAS**, the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), since having been declared as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), has irreversibly affected millions of lives and families worldwide. Its unprecedented speed of transmission and infectivity has placed a huge burden on essential areas of governance, most importantly in vulnerable sectors such as the economy, education, and healthcare;

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Executive Order No. (E.O.) 112, (s. 2020) provides that provincial governors shall be authorized to impose, lift or extend the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in component cities and municipalities upon the concurrence of the relevant regional counterpart body of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF); and, that the mayors of cities and municipalities are likewise authorized to impose, lift or extend ECQ in barangays, upon the concurrence of the relevant regional counterpart body of the IATF; *provided*, that this is without prejudice to the authority of the IATF to directly impose, lift or extend ECQ in these areas should circumstances call for it;

**WHEREAS**, the IATF issued the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines (IATF Omnibus Guidelines), as amended, to harmonize and codify existing guidelines of the IATF and member-agencies pertaining to community quarantine, which shall be applied to all regions, provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays placed under community quarantine;

**WHEREAS**, Guidelines for the Pilot Implementation of Alert Levels System in the National Capital Region was adopted by the IATF and was published on 13 September 2021.

**WHEREAS**, the pilot area for implementation of the Alert Levels System was expanded to include other provinces, highly urbanized cities, and independent component cities pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 144-D (s.2021) issued on 18 October 2021.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it hereby RESOLVED, that in consideration of the premises set forth herein, the IATF issues these Guidelines to enjoin and proactively advocate the principles of 3C's (Closed, Crowded, and Close Contact) strategy against COVID-19 to curb the further spread of infection:

For purposes of these Guidelines, the following shall be defined as follows:

1. **COVID-19 Alert Levels System** - refers to the new Community Quarantine Classifications for dealing with COVID-19 covering entire cities, municipalities and/or regions; aimed to manage and minimize the risk of the disease through System Indicators, Triggers and Thresholds determined by the IATF to specify the



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public health and social measures to be taken in relation to the COVID-19 response, as may be updated based on new scientific knowledge, information about the effectiveness of control measures in the country and overseas, and its application.

- a. Alert Level 1 - refers to areas wherein case transmission is low and decreasing, total bed utilization rate, and intensive care unit utilization rate is low.
  - b. Alert Level 2 - refers to areas wherein case transmission is low and decreasing, healthcare utilization is low, or case counts are low but increasing, or case counts are low and decreasing but total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate is increasing.
  - c. Alert Level 3 - refers to areas wherein case counts are high and/or increasing, with total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate at increasing utilization.
  - d. Alert Level 4 - refers to areas wherein case counts are high and/or increasing, with total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate at high utilization.
  - e. Alert Level 5 - refers to areas wherein case counts are alarming, with total bed utilization rate and intensive care unit utilization rate at critical utilization.
2. **Granular Lockdown** - refers to a micro-level quarantine for areas identified as "critical zones" by the local government unit (LGU) which may be declared regardless of Alert Level.
  3. **Minimum public health standards (MPHS)** - refers to the national, local, and sector-specific guidelines on mitigation measures for its COVID-19 response across all settings by implementing non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), consistent with the Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2021-0043 or the Omnibus Guidelines on the Minimum Public Health Standards for the Safe Reopening of Institutions. This term shall also encompass specific NPIs of community mitigation strategies or public health measures that do not involve vaccines, medications, or other pharmaceutical interventions, that individuals and communities can carry out in order to reduce transmission rates, contact rates, and the duration of infectiousness of individuals in the population.



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**PART I.**  
**ALERT LEVEL SYSTEM FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE**

**SECTION [1] GENERAL GUIDELINES**

1. The DOH shall identify the Alert Level of the pilot areas. These areas shall follow the protocols consistent with the declared Alert Level. For the duration of the pilot implementation, classification of the pilot areas shall be done weekly, unless otherwise specified.
2. LGUs in pilot areas shall submit on a daily basis to their respective Regional Inter-Agency Task Force (RIATF) such data as determined by National Government Agencies based on the template provided for by the IATF Sub-Technical Working Group on Data Analytics.
3. MPHS shall be implemented at all times consistent with the DOH Administrative Order No. 2021-0043 or the Omnibus Guidelines on the Minimum Public Health Standards for the Safe Reopening of Institutions.
4. The benefits for hazard pay and special risk allowances for all personnel in health facilities shall be applicable under the Alert Level System for the duration of the state of Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19.
5. Except those located in areas covered by granular lockdowns, all other establishments, or activities not prohibited under each Alert Level may be allowed to operate on-site provided they implement the minimum public health standards. However, they are encouraged to operate with a minimal on-site capacity, while applying work-from-home and other flexible work arrangements. For this purpose, the movement of workers of said establishments residing in areas not covered by granular lockdowns shall remain unrestricted.

Only hotels or accommodation establishments with valid DOT Accreditation shall be allowed to accommodate guests and clients subject to guidelines issued by the Department of Tourism and the IATF.

6. In all areas not under Alert Level 5, establishments permitted to operate under each Alert Level may be allowed additional venue/seating capacity on top of the existing allowable venue/seating capacities, as follows:
  - a. An additional twenty percent (20%) if the area where such establishments are located has a vaccination coverage above seventy percent (70%) for both Priority Group A2 (senior citizens) and Priority Group A3 (adults with comorbidities), as determined by the Vaccine Cluster of the National Task Force Against COVID-19; and



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- b. An additional ten percent (10%) if said establishments have been awarded Safety Seal Certificates under the Safety Seal Certification Program.

**SECTION [2] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 5.** Areas placed under Alert Level 5 shall observe the guidelines applicable to Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) as provided for under the IATF Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended. The benefits applicable to ECQ shall be applicable in Alert Level 5.

**SECTION [3] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 4.** The following protocols shall be observed in areas placed under Alert Level 4, except for portions thereof under granular lockdown:

1. Intrazonal and interzonal travel shall be allowed subject to the reasonable regulations of the LGU of destination, except for those (i) below eighteen (18) years of age, and (ii) belonging to the vulnerable population, namely, those who are over sixty-five (65) years of age, those with immunodeficiencies, comorbidities, or other health risks, and pregnant women, provided that:
  - a. Those below eighteen (18) years of age, and those belonging to the vulnerable population, shall be allowed access to obtain essential goods and services, or for work in permitted industries and offices in accordance with existing labor laws, rules, and regulations.
  - b. Fully vaccinated individuals belonging to the vulnerable population and those below eighteen (18) years of age shall be allowed to participate in the following activities:
    - i. Specialized markets of the Department of Tourism such as Point-to-Point Travel subject to the reasonable regulations of the LGU of destination, and *Staycations*; and
    - ii. Individual outdoor exercises even beyond the general area of their respective residences. Provided that, the minimum public health standards and precautions such as the wearing of face masks and the maintenance of social distancing protocols are observed.
2. Fully vaccinated individuals, including those belonging to the vulnerable population, may participate in the permitted activities under this Section.
3. The following establishments and/or activities characterized as high-risk for transmission **shall not be allowed to operate, or be undertaken** in areas classified under Alert Level 4:



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- a. Face to face or in-person classes for basic education, except those approved by the IATF and/or the Office of the President;
  - b. Face-to-face or in-person classes for higher education or for technical, vocational education and training, except those approved by the IATF and/or the Office of the President;
  - c. All contact sports, whether indoor or outdoor;
  - d. Cinemas and movie houses;
  - e. Funfairs/*peryas* and kid amusement industries such as playgrounds, playroom, and kiddie rides;
  - f. Venues with live voice or wind-instrument performers and audiences such as in karaoke bars, bars, clubs, concert halls, and theaters;
  - g. Casinos, horse racing, cockfighting and operation of cockpits, lottery and betting shops, and other gaming establishments except as may be authorized by the IATF or the Office of the President; and
  - h. Gatherings in residences with individuals not belonging to the same household.
4. The following establishments, or activities, shall be allowed to operate, or be undertaken at a **maximum of 10% indoor venue capacity for fully vaccinated individuals only and 30% outdoor venue capacity provided that they have been issued a Safety Seal Certification**. Provided further, that all workers/employees of these establishments are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and minimum public health standards shall be strictly maintained. Provided further still, that there is no objection from the LGU where these activities may take place:
- a. Venues for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE);
  - b. Permitted venues for social events such as parties, wedding receptions, engagement parties, wedding anniversaries, debut and birthday parties, family reunions, and bridal or baby showers;
  - c. Visitor or tourist attractions such as libraries, archives, museums, galleries, exhibits, parks, plazas, public gardens, scenic viewpoints or overlooks, and the like;
  - d. Amusement parks and theme parks; and
  - e. Recreational venues such as internet cafes, billiard halls, amusement arcades, bowling alleys, skating rinks, archery halls, swimming pools, and similar venues.
5. The following establishments, or activities, shall be allowed to operate, or be undertaken at a **maximum of 10% indoor venue capacity for fully vaccinated individuals only and 30% outdoor venue capacity**. Provided, that all workers/employees of these establishments are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and minimum public health standards shall be strictly maintained. Provided further, that there is no objection from the LGU where these activities may take place:



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- a. In-person religious gatherings. Provided that gatherings shall be limited to the conduct of religious worship and/or service, and processions and other similar mobile religious gatherings shall not be allowed. Provided further, that pastors, priests, rabbis, imams, or other religious ministers and the assistants of these religious congregations have been fully vaccinated;
  - b. Licensure or entrance/qualifying examinations administered by their respective government agency, and specialty examinations authorized by the IATF subject to the health and safety guidelines as approved by the IATF;
  - c. Dine-in services in food preparation establishments such as kiosks, commissaries, restaurants, and eateries, subject to DTI sector-specific protocols;
  - d. Personal care establishments such as barbershops, hair spas, hair salons, and nail spas, and those offering aesthetic/cosmetic services or procedures, make-up services, salons, spas, reflexology, and other similar procedures including home service options, subject to the sector-specific protocols of the DTI;
  - e. Fitness studios, gyms, and venues for non-contact exercise and sports, subject to DTI sector-specific protocols. Provided that patrons/clients and workers/employees wear face masks at all times and that no group activities are conducted; and,
  - f. Film, music, and television production, subject to the joint guidelines as may be issued by the DTI, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and the DOH.
6. Gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19, and for the cremains of the 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.
7. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall remain to be fully operational and shall adhere to at least 20% on-site capacity while applying work-from-home and other flexible work arrangements.

**SECTION [4] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 3.** The following protocols shall be observed in areas placed under Alert Level 3, except for portions thereof under granular lockdown:

1. Intrazonal and interzonal movement shall be allowed. However, reasonable restrictions may be imposed by the LGUs, which should not be stricter as those prescribed under higher alert levels and subject to the oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of their respective RIATF. Provided, that those below eighteen (18)





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years of age, and those belonging to the vulnerable population, shall be allowed access to obtain essential goods and services, or for work in permitted industries and offices in accordance with existing labor laws, rules, and regulations. Individual outdoor exercises shall also be allowed for all ages regardless of comorbidities or vaccination status.

2. The following establishments and/or activities characterized as high-risk for transmission shall **not be allowed to operate, or be undertaken** in areas classified under Alert Level 3:
  - a. Face to face or in-person classes for basic education, except those previously approved by the IATF and/or the Office of the President;
  - b. Contact sports, except those conducted under a bubble-type setup as provided for under relevant guidelines adopted by the IATF, Games and Amusement Board, and Philippine Sports Commission, and approved by the LGU where such games shall be held;
  - c. Fairs/*peryas* and kid amusement industries such as playgrounds, playroom, and kiddie rides;
  - d. Venues with live voice or wind-instrument performers and audiences such as in karaoke bars, clubs, concert halls, and theaters;
  - e. Casinos, horse racing, cockfighting and operation of cockpits, lottery and betting shops, and other gaming establishments except as may be authorized by the IATF or the Office of the President; and
  - f. Gatherings in residences with individuals not belonging to the same household.
  
3. The following establishments, or activities, shall be allowed to operate or be undertaken at a **maximum of 30% indoor venue capacity for fully vaccinated individuals only and 50% outdoor venue capacity**. Provided, that all workers/employees of these establishments are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and MPHS shall be strictly maintained. Provided further, that there is no objection from the LGU where these activities may take place.
  - a. Venues for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE);
  - b. Permitted venues for social events such as parties, wedding receptions, engagement parties, wedding anniversaries, debut and birthday parties, family reunions, and bridal or baby showers;
  - c. Visitor or tourist attractions such as libraries, archives, museums, galleries, exhibits, parks, plazas, public gardens, scenic viewpoints or overlooks, and the like;
  - d. Amusement parks or theme parks;
  - e. Recreational venues such as internet cafes, billiard halls, amusement arcades, bowling alleys, skating rinks, archery halls, swimming pools, and similar venues;



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- f. Cinemas and movie houses;
  - g. Limited face-to-face or in-person classes for higher education and for technical-vocational education and training;
  - h. In-person religious gatherings; gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, and funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 and for the remains of the COVID-19 deceased;
  - i. Licensure or entrance/qualifying examinations administered by their respective government agency, and specialty examinations authorized by the IATF subject to the health and safety guidelines as approved by the IATF;
  - j. Dine-in services in food preparation establishments such as kiosks, commissaries, restaurants, and eateries, subject to DTI sector-specific protocols;
  - k. Personal care establishments such as barbershops, hair spas, hair salons, and nail spas, and those offering aesthetic/cosmetic services or procedures, make-up services, salons, spas, reflexology, and other similar procedures including home service options, subject to the sector-specific protocols of the DTI;
  - l. Fitness studios, gyms, and venues for non-contact exercise and sports, subject to DTI sector-specific protocols. Provided that patrons/clients and workers/employees wear face masks at all times and that no group activities are conducted; and
  - m. Film, music, and television production, subject to the joint guidelines as may be issued by the DTI, DOLE, and the DOH.
4. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall remain to be fully operational and shall adhere to at least 30% on-site capacity while applying work-from-home and other flexible work arrangements.

**SECTION [5] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 2.** The following protocols shall be observed in areas placed under Alert Level 2, except for portions thereof under granular lockdown:

1. Intrazonal and interzonal movement shall be allowed. However, reasonable restrictions may be imposed by the LGUs, which should not be stricter as those prescribed under higher alert levels and subject to the oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of their respective RIATF.
2. Casinos, horse racing, cockfighting and operation of cockpits, lottery and betting shops, and other gaming establishments shall **not be allowed to operate, or be undertaken** in areas classified under Alert Level 2 except as may be authorized by the IATF or the Office of the President.





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3. The following establishments, or activities, shall be allowed to operate, or be undertaken at a **maximum of 50% indoor venue capacity for fully vaccinated individuals and those below 18 years of age, even if unvaccinated, and 70% outdoor venue capacity**. Provided, that all workers/employees of these establishments are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and MPHS shall be strictly maintained. Provided further, that there is no objection from the LGU where these activities may take place.
- a. Venues for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE);
  - b. Permitted venues for social events such as parties, wedding receptions, engagement parties, wedding anniversaries, debut and birthday parties, family reunions, and bridal or baby showers;
  - c. Visitor or tourist attractions such as libraries, archives, museums, galleries, exhibits, parks, plazas, public gardens, scenic viewpoints or overlooks, and the like;
  - d. Amusement parks or theme parks;
  - e. Recreational venues such as internet cafes, billiard halls, amusement arcades, bowling alleys, skating rinks, archery halls, swimming pools, and similar venues;
  - f. Cinemas and movie houses;
  - g. Limited face-to-face or in-person classes for basic education subject to prior approval of the Office of the President;
  - h. Limited face-to-face or in-person classes for higher education and for technical-vocational education and training;
  - i. In-person religious gatherings; gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, and funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 and for the cremains of the COVID-19 deceased;
  - j. Licensure or entrance/qualifying examinations administered by their respective government agency, and specialty examinations authorized by the IATF subject to the health and safety guidelines as approved by the IATF;
  - k. Dine-in services of food preparation establishments such as kiosks, commissaries, restaurants, and eateries, subject to DTI sector-specific protocols;
  - l. Personal care establishments such as barbershops, hair spas, hair salons, and nail spas, and those offering aesthetic/cosmetic services or procedures, make-up services, salons, spas, reflexology, and other similar procedures including home service options, subject to the sector-specific protocols of the DTI;
  - m. Fitness studios, gyms, and venues for individual non-contact exercise and sports, subject to DTI sector-specific protocols. Provided that patrons/clients and workers/employees wear face masks at all times and that no group activities are conducted;



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- n. Film, music, and television production subject to the joint guidelines as may be issued by the DTI, DOLE, and the DOH;
  - o. Contact sports approved by the LGU where such games shall be held;
  - p. Funfairs/*peryas* or kid amusement industries such as playgrounds, playroom, and kiddie rides;
  - q. Venues with live voice or wind-instrument performers and audiences such as in karaoke bars, clubs, concert halls, and theaters; and
  - r. Gatherings in residences with individuals not belonging to the same household.
4. Agencies and instrumentalities of the government shall remain to be fully operational and shall adhere to at least 50% on-site capacity while applying work-from-home and other flexible work arrangements.

**SECTION [6] GUIDELINES FOR AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 1.** The following protocols shall be observed in areas placed under Alert Level 1, except for portions thereof under granular lockdown:

1. Intrazonal and interzonal movement shall be allowed without regard to age and comorbidities.
2. All establishments, persons, or activities, are allowed to operate, work, or be undertaken at full on-site or venue/seating capacity provided it is consistent with minimum public health standards; provided further, that face to face classes for basic education shall be subject to prior approval of the Office of the President.



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**PART II**  
**GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GRANULAR LOCKDOWNS**

**Section [1] AUTHORITY TO DECLARE.** The authority to impose granular lockdown shall be given to the city and municipal mayors with respect to their component barangays subject to the concurrence of the Regional Inter-Agency Task Force (RIATF), and individual houses where one household member has been confirmed, residential buildings, streets, blocks, *puroks*, subdivisions, and/or villages within their jurisdiction.

**SECTION [2] PARAMETERS FOR DECLARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION.** The epidemiological parameters in the declaration of a granular lockdown, including specific interventions and activities to be conducted in such areas, shall comply with the National Task Force COVID-19 Memorandum Circular No. 2 dated 15 June 2020 or the Operational Guidelines on the Application of the Zoning Containment Strategy in the Localization of the National Action Plan Against COVID-19 Response.

**SECTION [3] DURATION.** Granular lockdowns shall be for a period of not less than fourteen (14) days.

**SECTION [4] EFFECTIVITY.**

1. Declaration of granular lockdowns by local chief executives shall be provisionally effective immediately and shall include due notice to the RIATF. The RIATF shall immediately act on the said declaration.
2. The IATF retains its mandate to impose and/or lift lockdowns on highly urbanized cities and independent component cities in accordance with Executive Order No. 112 (s.2020).

**SECTION [5] SECURITY.** The Philippine National Police (PNP) shall ensure peace and order at all times. They shall make sure that security protocols are maintained in lockdown areas.

**SECTION [6] MOVEMENT.** The list of Authorized Persons Outside Residences under the IATF Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended, shall not apply in areas under granular lockdowns. Only health care workers (HCWs) and non-health personnel working in hospitals, laboratories, dialysis facilities, and community healthcare workers if their institutions are unable to provide accommodation for their personnel, and uniformed personnel tasked to enforce the granular lockdown, shall be allowed to move within, into, and out of the area under granular lockdown.

The following shall be allowed to enter and/or exit granular lockdown areas for specific purposes:



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1. Overseas Filipino Workers bound for international travel, and those returning to their respective residences after having completed facility-based quarantine upon arrival;
2. Individuals whose home or residence are located within an area under granular lockdown may enter the said area for the sole purpose of returning to their respective homes or residences but must thereafter remain therein for the duration of the granular lockdown;
3. Individuals under exceptional circumstances such as, but not limited to, those seeking urgent medical attention as validated by the municipal/city health officer; and
4. Food and essential items provided that they can only be picked up and/or unloaded at border collection points designated by the LGU.

**SECTION [7] ASSISTANCE TO AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS.** Households within areas under granular lockdown shall be provided assistance by their respective LGUs and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in accordance with their relevant guidelines.

**SECTION [8] REPORTING.**

1. LGUs shall report details of their granular lockdowns to the Department of the Interior and Local Government following a prescribed format which shall thereafter be submitted to their respective NTF Regional Task Force.
2. RTFs shall monitor all areas under granular lockdowns in the region, and shall provide monitoring reports to the National Task Force Against COVID-19.

**SECTION [9] INCORPORATION.** Succeeding issuances of the Department of the Interior and Local Government relative to the imposition of granular lockdowns, if any, shall form an integral part of these Guidelines.

**RESOLVED FURTHER,** that the provisions of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended, insofar as they are not inconsistent with these Guidelines shall be applied suppletorily. In case of doubt, these Guidelines shall prevail.

*Note: Last signed Guidelines for Pilot Implementation of Alert Levels System in the National Capital Region published on 13 September 2021. Amendatory IATF Resolution/s were published individually.*

*Prepared for general reference purposes by the IATF Secretariat.*