



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines

FEB 14 2020

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 01, s. 2020

TO : NDRRMC MEMBER AGENCIES

SUBJECT : ENJOINING ALL MEMBER AGENCIES TO SUPPORT THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE (IATF) FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)

I. References

- a. Interagency Task Force for the Management of Infectious Diseases Resolution No. 01, series of 2020, dated 28 January 2020
- b. Executive Order No. 168, s. 2014 entitled "Creating the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Philippines"
- c. Republic Act No. 10121, otherwise known as the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010

II. Background

On 31 December 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) was informed of a cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China.

On 7 January 2020, Chinese health authorities reported that the said viral pneumonia outbreak in Wuhan City was caused by a new or novel type of coronavirus. This strain of coronavirus has not been previously identified in humans.

On 21 January 2020, DOH disclosed that a five-year-old child, manifesting pneumonia-like symptoms and with history of travel from Wuhan, China was admitted in Cebu City for investigation. Specimens from the child were sent to Australia for identification of the specific coronavirus strain. On 24 January 2020, the samples from the child tested negative for the said virus strain.

On 27 January 2020, the WHO classified the risk level of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Acute Respiratory Disease (ARD) infection as very high in China, high at the regional level, and high at the global level. Anent to this, the Inter-

Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) led by the Department of Health (DOH) convened on 28 January 2020 to discuss the appropriate courses of action in managing the growing nCoV ARD situation.

The 2019-nCoV ARD is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person to person. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in many species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Animal coronaviruses can rarely be transmitted by animals to human such as with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and now with 2019-nCoV ARD.

On 30 January 2020, DOH confirmed that a 38-year-old female Chinese patient under investigation (PUI) admitted in San Lazaro Hospital tested positive for the 2019-nCoV ARD after the arrival of her laboratory results from Melbourne, Australia. The said case arrived in the Philippines from Wuhan, China last 21 January 2020. The patient sought consultation and was admitted in a government hospital last 25 January 2020 experiencing mild cough. However, on 1 February 2020, the companion of the said patient, a 44-year-old Chinese male, who was also admitted in the same hospital, died from severe pneumonia due to viral and bacterial infections.

In light of the growing cases of 2019-nCoV ARD globally, with the highest number recorded in China, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

As of 5 February 2020, three (3) confirmed 2019-nCoV ARD cases in the Philippines were recorded by DOH, all of which are of Chinese nationality. A cumulative total of 133 PUIs for the 2019-nCoV ARD nationwide. Of the 133 PUIs, 115 are currently admitted and isolated, while 16 have been discharged and under strict monitoring.

In view of the foregoing, the DOH has elevated the situation to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) to support the IATF-EID in addressing this public health concern.





III. Purpose

This Memorandum Circular enjoins all member agencies to support the efforts of the IATF-EID. This document indicates the roles and responsibilities of the NDRRMC Response Clusters to undertake a unified response to identify, track, control, and prevent the increase of the 2019-nCoV ARD cases in the Philippines.

IV. Directives

In order to deliver an effective, efficient, timely, and well-coordinated response mechanism to support the IATF-EID in the Philippines, the NDRRMC through the Response Clusters shall adhere to the Response Cluster Framework for Emerging Infectious Diseases.

The framework shall serve as basis for the organization and tasking of the Response Clusters in support of the Task Groups of the IATF-EID under Executive Order No. 168, series of 2014.

TASK GROUP	EO NO. 168	DOH EREID Manual			NDRRMC NDRP	
	Detailed Functions	Lead	Bureaus	Supporting Agencies	Lead	Supporting Response Clusters
 Port Quarantine	Quarantine and Immediate Containment of EID within ports of entry	DOH	BOQ	DFA DOJ-BI DOTR DA-BAI DA-BPI	HEALTH	PHIL. INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE LAW AND ORDER LOGISTICS
 Contact Tracing	Epidemiological Investigation and Contact Tracing		EB RESU	DFA DILG PNP BFP AFP DOLE OWAA POEA DEPED DA DSWD		CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT EDUCATION LAW AND ORDER LOGISTICS SEARCH, RESCUE AND RETRIEVAL
 Treatment and Containment	Treatment of infected cases and containment of affected areas		DPCB BHFD HEMB RITM	DENR DILG LGUs DA DSWD DTI PNP BFP AFP PHIC		CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT EDUCATION WASH EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOOD AND NON-FOOD ITEMS LAW AND ORDER LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT OF THE DEAD AND THE MISSING PROTECTION
 Risk Communication	Formulation of a risk communication plan and EID materials for the general public		HPCS	DOLE OWAA POEA DEPED DILG PIA DND OCD		CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT EDUCATION EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOGISTICS PHIL. INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Relative to this, the Task Groups were created and shall be responsible for the following:

1. Task Group Port Quarantine

- Prevent and/or minimize the entry of suspected or confirmed patient with EID into the country. This should include rigid screening and identification of EID suspects, and the institutionalization of a surveillance, alert, and quarantine system in all ports of entry

2. Task Group Contact Tracing

- Establish a system of identifying, screening, and assisting Filipinos suspected or confirmed to be infected with EID
- Conduct of Epidemiological Investigation and Contact Tracing

3. Task Group Treatment and Containment

- Prevent and/or minimize mortality through effective clinical management by capacitating healthcare facilities, government and private medical practitioners, healthcare workers, and public safety enforcers
- Treatment of infected cases and containment of affected areas

4. Task Group Risk Communication

- Educate the public on EID and its prevention, control, and management by capacitating healthcare facilities, government and private medical practitioners, healthcare workers, and public safety enforcers
- Formulation of a risk communication plan and EID materials for the general public

The NDRRMC Response Clusters are tasked to provide assistance to the IATF-EID Task Groups through the provision of all appropriate augmentation, as necessary. Considering the nature of the incident, the Health Cluster led by the DOH shall be tasked to oversee and lead the operations of the following Response Clusters:

- a. Philippine International Humanitarian Assistance Cluster
- b. Law and Order Cluster
- c. Education Cluster
- d. Logistics Cluster
- e. Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster
- f. Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
- g. Food and Non-Food Items Cluster
- h. Management of the Dead and Missing
- i. Internally Displaced Persons Protection
- j. Search, Rescue, and Retrieval

The Response Clusters and other Member Agencies of the NDRRMC are therefore enjoined to conduct the following activities in support of the IATF-EID:

1. Intensify information dissemination campaigns for increasing awareness of the public through all available media platforms.
2. Secure full participation of the Local DRRM Councils through the cascading of infection control initiatives to respective counterparts;
3. Support in the conduct of contact tracing and field validation in support to the Epidemiology Bureau and Regional Epidemiology Surveillance Unit of the DOH;
4. Support in the repatriation operations of Filipinos who intend to return to the country, especially those coming from Wuhan, China;
5. Continuous coordination with LGUs and partner organizations;
6. Assist in the mobilization of logistics and in the conduct of bio-chemical interventions;
7. Assist in the preparation, security, and management of designated quarantine areas, and, if needed, identify alternate areas that could be used as quarantine sites;
8. Support the creation of a risk communication plan to allay the fears of the public and combat fake news and unverified reports; and

9. Perform other tasks as directed by the Health Cluster, the Executive Director, and the Chairperson of the NDRRMC.

Coordinating Instructions

The DRRMCs at all levels shall serve as the platform to ensure the effective implementation of this Memorandum Circular. All Response Clusters are directed to collaborate with their counterparts at all levels and work closely with DOH as the lead agency of both the IATF-IED and NDRRMC Health Cluster.

The NDRRM Operations Center located at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City and the DOH Operations Center located at the San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, shall serve as the primary and alternate coordinating center of the NDRRMC Response Clusters, respectively.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.



DELFIN N LORENZANA
Secretary of National Defense
Chairperson, NDRRMC

