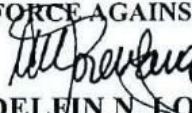




REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NATIONAL TASK FORCE AGAINST COVID-19


MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
No. 5, s. 2021

TO : ALL CONCERNED MEMBER AGENCIES OF THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE AGAINST COVID 19

FROM :  SEC. DELFIN N. LORENZANA
Secretary of National Defense
Chairperson of the National Task Force Against COVID -19

SUBJECT : TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF TRAVEL INTO THE PHILIPPINES OF FOREIGNERS AND RETURNING OVERSEAS FILIPINOS (ROFs) WHO ARE NON-OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (NON - OFWs)

DATE : 16 MARCH 2021



DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
DNL-211857

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- A. On 15 March 2021, the Philippines recorded 5,404 new COVID positive cases, which is the highest report of positive cases in the last 6 months.
- B. This significant rise in cases since the start of the year is highly likely to be attributed to increased transmission due to noncompliance to the minimum public health standards, especially during gatherings, increased mobility of people, delays in detection and isolation of infected patients, and the entry of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern having potential increased transmissibility.
- C. According to the press release of the Department of Health (DOH) dated last 13 March 2021, the sustained biosurveillance efforts of the University of the Philippines - Philippine Genome Center (UP-PGC), the UP National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH), and the DOH, have confirmed additional cases of the variants of concern. There were 59 new cases positive for the B.1.1.7 variant (UK variant), 32 additional cases positive for the B.1.351 variant (South Africa variant), and one (1) case positive for the P.1 variant (Brazilian variant).
1. Among the additional fifty-nine (59) B.1.1.7 variant cases, 30 are local cases, 18 are Returning Overseas Filipinos (ROFs), and 11 are currently being verified whether local or imported. This brought the total number of B.1.1.7 cases in the country to 177.
 2. Among the thirty-two (32) B.1.351 variant cases, 21 are local cases, 1 is an ROF, and 10 are still being verified as to their location, bringing the total number of B.1.351 cases in the country to 90.
 3. The one (1) case found with the P.1 variant is a Returning Overseas Filipino (ROF) from Brazil.
- D. In light of efforts to prevent the entry of SARS-CoV-2 variants from other countries and the further rise of cases, all concerned agencies are hereby directed to **limit the number of inbound international passengers/arrivals to only One Thousand Five Hundred (1,500) a day and to temporarily suspend the entry of Foreign Nationals and Returning Overseas Filipinos who are non-OFWs beginning 0000H of 20th March 2021 until 19th April 2021, except the following:**

1. Holders of 9(e) visas;
2. Medical repatriation and their escort/s duly endorsed by the Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (DFA-OUMWA) or the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA);
3. Distressed ROFs duly endorsed by the Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (DFA-OUMWA);
4. Emergency, humanitarian, and other analogous cases approved by the NTF COVID-19.

E. This directive shall be given the appropriate and widest publicity by all concerned agencies.

FOR GUIDANCE AND APPROPRIATE ACTION.

