



ADVISORY NO. 2021 - 04

SUBJECT : TEMPORARY SUSPENSION ON THE PROCESSING OF REQUESTS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS FOR ENDORSEMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL BAN EXEMPTIONS TO THE PHILIPPINES

This is with regard to the requests of Foreign Nationals (FNs) for endorsement to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) for Travel Ban Exemptions (TBE) to the Philippines.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) refers to the following:

- (i) The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) Resolution No. 103 dated 18 March 2021, wherein the entry of FNs into the country will be temporarily suspended from 22 March 2021 to 21 April 2021;
- (ii) The IATF-MEID National Task Force Against COVID-19 (NTF COVID-19) Memorandum Circular No. 6 dated 18 March 2021 on the Temporary Suspension of Travel into the Philippines, wherein the temporary suspension of entry of FNs into the country from 22 March 2021 to 21 April 2021 was also provided; and
- (iii) The Letter dated 19 March 2021 from DFA Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Affairs Brigido J. Dulay on the Suspension of Processing of Entry Exemption Requests from 22 March 2021 to 21 April 2021, wherein National Government Agencies (NGAs) were advised not to send any endorsements during the said period as they will be disregarded.

In line with the abovementioned, please be advised that the DICT will also be suspending the processing of requests of FNs for endorsements to the DFA for TBE to the Philippines from 22 March 2021 until 21 April 2021.

The foregoing issuances are annexed to this Advisory for reference. Please be guided accordingly.



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

RESOLUTION NO. 103

Series of 2021

March 18, 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 mandates the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases to prevent and/or minimize the entry of suspected or confirmed patients with emerging infectious diseases into the country;

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2020, the President issued Proclamation No. 1021 (s.2020) extending the period of the State of Calamity throughout the Philippines until September 21, 2021;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health received reports regarding a new variant of the SARS-CoV-2 (B.1.1.7 or VUI 2020/12/01) spreading in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) and another variant identified in South Africa (501.V2);

WHEREAS, Memoranda of the Executive Secretary provided for additional measures to be observed relative to the SARS-COV-2 Variant detected in the United Kingdom including the imposition of travel restrictions on countries/jurisdictions where the new COVID-19 variants were officially reported, and subjected Filipino citizens coming from the same countries/jurisdictions to an absolute 14-day quarantine period notwithstanding a negative Reverse-Transcription - Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test result;

WHEREAS, the continued implementation of proactive measures is necessary to ensure the utmost protection of the health of the Filipino people.

WHEREAS, as of March 17, 2021, there are a total of Sixty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Seven (66,567) active COVID-19 cases in the Philippines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the IATF approves the following:

- A. The recommendations of the National Task Force Against COVID-19 Task Group Recovery Cluster on the Priority Group A4 of the National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan selected based on necessity of the service provided for the public and



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level of exposure is hereby provisionally approved. Local government units (LGUs) are enjoined to prepare a masterlist of residents and workers within their jurisdiction.

B. The recommendations of the IATF Technical Working Group are hereby ratified, the specifics of which are as follows:

1. Memorandum Circular No. 5, s.2021 issued by the National Task Force Against COVID-19 is adopted with modifications, as follows:

a. All Filipino citizens whether returning Overseas Filipino or Overseas Filipino Worker shall be allowed to return to the Philippines;

b. Effective 0001H March 22, 2021 to 2359H April 21, 2021, the entry of foreign nationals shall be temporarily suspended, except for the following:

i. Diplomats and members of international organizations, and their dependents provided they hold a valid 9(e) visa or 47(a)(2) visa, as the case may be, at the time of entry;

ii. Foreign nationals involved in medical repatriation duly endorsed by Department of Foreign Affairs - Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration provided they have a valid visa at the time of entry;

iii. Foreign seafarers under the “Green Lanes” program for crew change provided that they hold a 9(c) crew list visa at the time of entry;

iv. Foreign spouses and children of Filipino citizens travelling with them provided they have valid visas at the time of entry; and

v. Emergency, humanitarian, and other analogous cases approved by the Chairperson of the NTF COVID-19 or his duly authorized representative, provided the foreign nationals have valid visas at the time of entry.

c. The foregoing is without prejudice to immigration laws, rules, and regulations such that the Commissioner of Immigration shall have the exclusive prerogative to decide on waiver or recall of exclusion orders for all foreign nationals authorized entry under relevant IATF



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resolutions, subject to regular reporting to the IATF Secretariat at the end of each calendar month.

- d. The entry of all of the foregoing shall still be subject to such daily limit of incoming passengers as may be imposed by the Department of Transportation.
2. To address the rising cases of COVID-19, the following measures shall be in place in areas under General Community Quarantine until 4 April 2021:
 - a. The operations of driving schools, traditional cinemas and video- and interactive- game arcades, libraries, archives, museums, and cultural centers, limited social events at accredited establishments of the DOT, and limited tourist attractions except open-air tourist attractions shall be temporarily suspended;
 - b. Meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE) events shall be limited to essential business gatherings at thirty percent (30%) venue capacity;
 - c. Religious gatherings shall observe a maximum of thirty percent (30%) 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 such LGUs have the discretion to allow higher venue capacity not exceeding fifty percent (50%) based on conditions in their localities;
 - d. Venue capacity of dine-in restaurants, cafes, personal care services shall be reduced to a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of capacity;
 - e. National government agencies are encouraged to defer the conduct of non-critical activities that would entail mass gatherings; and
 - f. Cockfighting and cockpit operations are suspended, including in areas under Modified General Community Quarantine;

To implement the foregoing, all concerned government agencies are hereby requested to issue the appropriate operational guidelines.

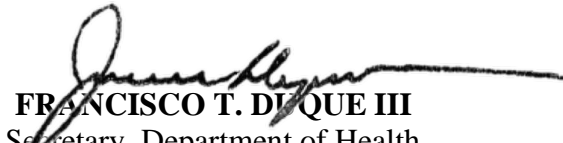
3. Local government units shall retain the authority to impose a higher age limit for age-based restrictions for minors depending on the COVID-19 situation in their respective jurisdictions. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority is directed to facilitate the establishment of reasonable and uniform exemptions with the local government units in the National Capital Region.



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FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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 103rd Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, held this 18th of March 2021 *via* video conference.


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III
Secretary, Department of Health
IATF Chairperson


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



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FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that:

1. I am presently an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health;
2. I am the interim OIC-Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases created under Executive Order No. 168, series of 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 a regular meeting of the IATF, the IATF Resolution No. **103** was unanimously approved and adopted;
6. The foregoing resolution has been signed by Secretary Francisco T. Duque III and 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 **18th** day of March 2021, Manila.


ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO-GRANDE
OIC-Head of the Secretariat, IATF
Assistant Secretary of Health

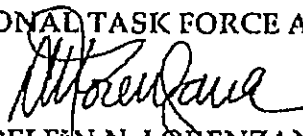


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE
THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES
NATIONAL TASK FORCE AGAINST COVID-19

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 6, s. 2021

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

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



SUBJECT : TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF TRAVEL INTO THE
PHILIPPINES

DATE : 18 MARCH 2021

In view of the agreements in the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID) meeting held on 18 March 2021, the directives under Memorandum Circular No. 5 issued by the National Task Force against Covid-19 (NTF Covid-19) are hereby clarified:

1. All Filipino citizens whether a returning Overseas Filipino or Overseas Filipino Worker shall be allowed to return to the Philippines;
2. Effective 0001H March 22, 2021 to 2359H April 21, 2021, the entry of foreign nationals shall be temporarily suspended, except for the following:
 - i. Diplomats and members of international organizations, and their dependents provided they hold a valid 9(e) visa or 47(a)(2) visa, as the case may be, at the time of entry;
 - ii. Foreign nationals involved in medical repatriation duly endorsed by Department of Foreign Affairs - Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (DFA - OUMWA) and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), provided that they have a valid visa at the time of entry;

- iii. Foreign seafarers under the "Green Lanes" program for crew change provided that they hold a 9(c) crew list visa at the time of entry;
- iv. Foreign spouses and children of Filipino citizens travelling with them provided they have valid visas at the time of entry; and
- v. Emergency, humanitarian, and other analogous cases approved by the Chairperson of the NTF COVID-19 or his duly authorized representative, provided the foreign nationals have valid visas at the time of entry.

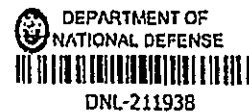
The foregoing is without prejudice to immigration laws, rules, and regulations such that the Commissioner of Immigration shall have the exclusive prerogative to decide on waiver or recall of exclusion orders for all foreign nationals authorized entry under relevant IATF resolutions, subject to regular reporting to the IATF Secretariat at the end of each calendar month.

During the period of 0001H 22 March 2021 to 2359H 21 April 2021, the travel of Filipinos and exempted foreign nationals shall be subject to the arrival quota set by the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

This Memorandum Circular supersedes MC No. 05, s. 2021. All issuances issued by the NTF Covid-19 which are inconsistent with this Memorandum Circular are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

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

FOR GUIDANCE AND APPROPRIATE ACTION.





DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR CIVILIAN SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS

VERY URGENT

19 March 2021

Subject: Suspension of Processing of Entry Exemption Requests From 22 March 2021 to 21 April 2021.

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

The Department refers to Resolution No. 103 of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases dated 18 March 2021 on the temporary suspension of entry into the Philippines of Foreign Nationals (FNs) beginning 0001H of 22 March 2021 until 2359H of 21 April 2021.

In this regard, all National Government Agencies (NGAs) are advised that the Department will suspend the processing of entry exemption requests from 22 March 2021 until 21 April 2021.

During this period, NGAs should not send any endorsement to the Department. Any endorsement sent on or after 22 March 2021 until 21 April 2020 will be disregarded, while endorsements received prior to 22 March 2021 will be processed without need of resubmission. However, approval will only be released once foreign nationals are allowed entry to the Philippines once again as mandated by the Office of the President and the IATF.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,
For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:


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Undersecretary

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