



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

RESOLUTION NO. 152

Series of 2021

December 02, 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), P.1 (Gamma), and B.1.617 (Delta) variants of SARS-CoV-2 in the Philippines.

WHEREAS, with a new B.1.1.529 variant designated as Variant of Concern and named Omicron, proactive measures and restrictions must be put in place.

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

- A. The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases expresses its recognition and commendation to the National Task Force Against COVID-19 and its National Vaccination Operations Center for the successful conduct of the three-day *Bayanihan, Bakunahan*. The commendation and appreciation is likewise extended to all government offices and agencies, local government units, non-government organizations, private entities, and individual volunteers who shared their time and resources for this worthy cause.
- B. Upon the recommendations of the Sub-Technical Working Group on Data Analytics, metrics for determining alert level classifications of provinces, highly



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urbanized cities (HUCs), and independent component cities (ICCs) shall be amended as follows:

1. The Alert Level Matrix as determined by the sTWG on Data Analytics shall continue to use the cross-tabulation of case classification and total COVID-19 beds utilization and shall be revised as follows:
 - i. One-Week Growth Rate as a metric for escalation from Alert Level 1 to Alert Level 2 shall be removed;
 - ii. Areas under Alert Level 1 may be escalated to Alert Level 2 if either case classification or total COVID-19 bed utilization increases to moderate risk or higher;
 - iii. Areas under Alert Level 2 may be escalated to Alert Level 3 if both case classification and total COVID-19 bed utilization are at moderate risk; or if case classification is at high to critical risk.
 2. Applying the metrics as revised hereinabove, Apayao shall hereinafter be classified under Alert Level 2 from 3 December until 15 December 2021.
- C. The recommendations of the Task Force on COVID-19 Variants are hereby approved, the specifics of which are as follows:
1. In further strengthening active case finding and healthcare system capacity:
 - i. The National Task Force Against COVID-19 Task Group on the Management of Returning Overseas Filipinos is directed to ensure that all positive samples of arrivals from 1 November 2021, and onwards that are eligible for sequencing are immediately submitted to the University of the Philippines - Philippine Genome Center and required data reported to the Department of Health Epidemiology Bureau;
 - ii. The Department of the Interior and Local Government is directed to enjoin local government units to initiate active case finding and immediately flag clusters or increasing cases and immediately submit eligible samples for sequencing;
 - iii. The One Hospital Command Center of the Department of Health, and such other respective agencies are directed to conduct inventory of the health system capacity to ensure adequate resources are available in instances that spikes of



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- cases will occur; and
- iv. The NTF National Vaccination Operations Center and all local government units are directed to continue fast-tracking vaccine deployment, especially for the Priority Groups A2 and A3, to reach a high fully vaccination coverage.
2. In further strengthening border control measures, the following testing and quarantine protocols for arriving international travelers in all ports of entry coming from countries/territories/jurisdictions not classified as a Red List country/territory/jurisdiction under IATF Resolution 151-A (s.2021) shall be observed beginning 03 December 2021:
- i. For fully vaccinated individuals - a negative Reverse Transcription - Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test conducted within seventy-two hours (72 hrs) prior to departure from the country of origin will be required. Upon arrival, they shall undergo facility-based quarantine with an RT-PCR test taken on the fifth (5th) day, with the date of arrival being the first day. Regardless of a negative result, they shall be required to undergo home quarantine up to the fourteenth (14th) day from the date of arrival.
 - ii. Individuals who are unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, or whose vaccination status cannot be independently validated - a negative RT-PCR test conducted within seventy-two hours (72 hrs) prior to departure from the country of origin will be required. Upon arrival, they shall undergo facility-based quarantine with an RT-PCR test done on the seventh (7th) day, with the date of arrival being the first day. Regardless of a negative result, they shall be required to undergo home quarantine up to the fourteenth (14th) day from the date of arrival.
 - iii. The Department of Transportation shall ensure that airlines board only passengers who comply with the negative RT-PCR test-before-travel requirement.
 - iv. The testing and quarantine protocols of minors shall follow the testing and quarantine protocol of the parent/guardian traveling with them, regardless of the minor's vaccination status and country of origin.
 - v. International passengers who have already arrived and are currently undergoing quarantine, shall continue with the testing and quarantine protocols in place at the time of their arrival.




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3. Filipinos from Red List countries/territories/jurisdictions allowed entry via government-initiated repatriations, non-government-initiated repatriations, and *Bayanihan Flights* shall only be allowed to deplane via the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and/or Clark International Airport. The Department of Transportation, through their attached agencies, are directed to ensure that airlines comply with this directive. Upon arrival, the individual shall comply with the testing and quarantine protocols as prescribed under IATF Resolution No. 149-A (s.2021).

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 152nd Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, held this December 02, 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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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;
1. In the Regular Meeting of the IATF held on **02 December 2021** via teleconference during which a quorum was present and acted throughout, IATF Resolution No. **152** was unanimously approved and adopted;
5. 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;
6. I am executing this Certification for whatever legitimate purpose this may serve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this **2nd** day of December 2021, Manila.


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