



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 24, 2020

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2020 - 0145

TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS, SERVICES AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO; EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITAL AND NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL; DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA, AND INSTITUTES; PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION; DIRECTORS OF THE PHILIPPINE AIDS COUNCIL SECRETARIAT AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Interim Guidelines for the Provision of Transport Vehicles to Health Workers and Health Facility Staff Under the Expanded Community Quarantine

I. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the Memorandum from the Office of the President dated March 16, 2020, with the subject "Community Quarantine over the Entire Luzon and Further Guidelines for the Management of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation," mass public transport facilities have been suspended with exemptions to allow the travel of health and emergency frontline services, which shall ensure skeletal workforce and other critical services.

The Department of Health (DOH) hereby issues interim guidelines for the provision of transport vehicles for health workers and staff employed in health facilities.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Heads of the health facilities shall ensure transport service will be provided to health workers and staff needing such assistance.
2. Each health facility shall formulate their own routing and transport plan.
3. Local Government Units (LGU) are enjoined to help address transportation issues of health workers and support staff, of public or private hospitals, and any other facility managing COVID-19.
4. Each health facility shall designate a health emergency transport vehicle for essential health workers that have no means of transportation to and from their designated facilities.

III. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

A. Health Worker Identification

Based on the operational guidelines updated and approved by the Inter-agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases and as part of the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in the entirety of Luzon, the following among others shall be considered health and emergency frontline workers:

1. Public health workers meaning all employees of the Department of Health Central Office and Centers for Health Development, DOH attached agencies, public treatment and rehabilitation centers, public sanitarium, DOH specialty hospitals, DOH and LGU hospitals, and provincial, city and rural health units;
2. Private health workers such as but not limited to medical professionals, hospital administrative staff, and aides from private health facilities as well as and their service providers; and
3. Health workers and volunteers of the Philippine Red Cross and the World Health Organization.

B. Alternate Transport Vehicles, Pick-up Points and Focal Person

1. The Department of Transportation (DOTr) shall deploy buses in the National Capital Region (NCR) to transport health workers to hospitals beginning March 18, 2020, in close coordination with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, Philippine Coast Guard, Department of Public Works and Highways and HM Transit. The deployed buses will ferry health workers to their designated hospitals following the routes and point-to-point pick-up/drop-off areas per guidelines released by the DOTr.
2. In some areas, LGUs may assist by providing or securing vehicles for the movement of health workers and support staff to public or private hospitals, or any other facility managing COVID-19 patients in their respective jurisdictions. LGUs are also enjoined to observe these guidelines as relevant in their provision of transportation assistance, and for the health and safety of passengers and transport service providers.
 - a. Pick-up points shall be arranged on bringing the health care workers and health facility staff to and from their health facilities and/or their designated health care assignments within a 250-meter radius from the passengers' residence.
 - b. Carpooling shall be allowed following the general guidelines of the IATF-EID Resolution No. 11, series of 2020 dated March 12, 2020.

C. Vehicle Identification

1. Transport vehicles shall be marked with an indicating label, which may be in the form of stickers or any weatherproof-printed material, that shall be placed on four sides of the carrying vehicle. (See **Annex A**).
2. Transport vehicles carrying health workers shall be given priority in checkpoint areas. Misuse of this arrangement shall be subject to appropriate actions in accordance to relevant laws and regulations.


D. Sea and Air Transport

1. Speed boats, ships, and other maritime vessels may be used as means of transportation for those who are within the vicinity of the seaports to support inter-island transport.
2. Air lifts may be provided to health workers and hospital supplies to their designated healthcare assignments, whenever land and sea transport vehicles are unavailable.

E. Sanitation and Passenger Control

1. Passengers must be able to maintain social distancing in transport vehicles such as not having more than four (4) passengers including the driver in a sedan, not more than six (6) passengers in an eight-seater sport utility vehicle (SUV), and not more than 50 percent capacity of vans or multi-cabs.
2. Buses or coasters must not have more than one passenger per row each side and must not have any standing passengers.
3. Disinfection shall be administered on the interior of the vehicle after every completion of a trip, particularly on frequently-touched surfaces that are exposed to the passengers.
4. All passengers must wear face masks while onboard the vehicles, and for the whole duration of their trip.
5. Social distancing in public transport shall be complied per the DOTr guidelines, and following the general guidelines set in IATF-EID Resolution No. 11 series of 2020 dated March 12, 2020.

For guidance and strict compliance.


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

Annex A. Prescribed Template for Transport Vehicle Identification



(HEALTH FACILITY DOH LTO CODE)



HEALTH EMERGENCY TRANSPORT VEHICLE

Health Facility Name:

Location:

Max. Capacity: