



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 26, 2020

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2020 - 0159

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

SUBJECT: Triage and Management of Pregnant Patients with Suspected COVID-19

Department Memorandum 2020-0108 dated March 11, 2020 or the “Guidelines For Management of Patients with Possible or Confirmed COVID-19,” states that those who are elderly (age more than 60 years old) and those with co-morbidities are considered to be vulnerable populations. They should be tested for COVID-19 as well as admitted for isolation even if symptoms are mild. The guidelines, however, do not include pregnant patients as a vulnerable population of COVID-19.

This is to inform all healthcare providers that pregnant patients should be included as a vulnerable population in the triage and management of COVID-19. All pregnant patients, even those exhibiting only mild symptoms, should be treated as Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) and should be tested for COVID-19 via RT-PCR. Likewise, these patients should be admitted for isolation. Pending results of COVID-19 tests should **not** hinder their admission and the management of the pregnancy.

Dissemination of the above information is requested.


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