



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Education  
REGION VII, Central Visayas  
Schools Division of Cebu Province

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OFFICE OF THE SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

February 5, 2020

**DIVISION MEMORANDUM**

No. 045, s. 2020

**ADVISORY IN RESPONSE TO THE ONGOING  
NOVEL CORONA VIRUS (nCOV) MATTER**

To: Schools Division Superintendent  
Assistant Schools Division Superintendents  
SGOD and CID Chiefs  
Education Program Supervisors /Division Coordinators  
Public Schools District Supervisors /OICs  
Elementary and Secondary Schools Heads  
All Others Concerned

1. The Department of Education (DepEd) has intensified its efforts to promote awareness and precautionary measures for learners, schools and DepEd Offices regarding the Novel Corona Virus (nCOV) matter.
2. In view of this, the Secretary of Education Leonor Magtolis Briones hereby issues the following directives for strict implementation :
  - a.) *All National activities that involve learners and teachers are suspended in February.*
  - b.) *All Regional, Division and district activities that involve learners and teachers (jamborees, athletic meets, contests, field trips etc.) need clearance from the local DOH (health authorities) before these are conducted in February.*
  - c.) *All Official travels to China and other affected countries are suspended. Those with travel authorities approved earlier but February travels in the mentioned countries are highly discouraged.*

- d.) *Avoid crowding of learners. Flag raising ceremonies must be done in the respective classrooms.*
- e.) *DepEd is monitoring the NCOV problem weekly and update the field if the suspensions will be lifted or extended.*
3. Attached here is a Situational Report (SitRep) No. 5 of 2019 Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease (2019-nCoV ARD).
4. Immediate dissemination and strict compliance of this Memorandum is desired.

  
**MARILYN S. ANDALES, Ed. D., CESO V**  
Schools Division Superintendent 

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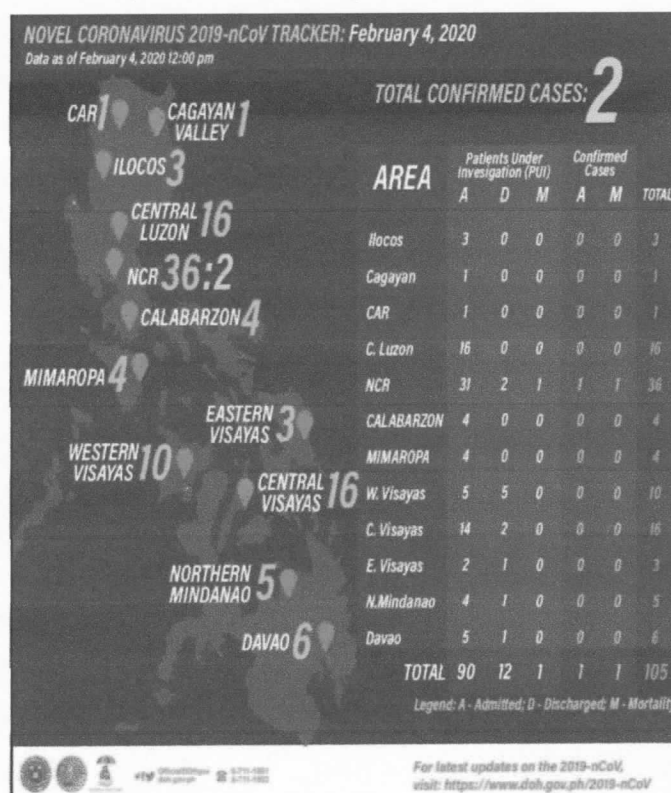


**2019 Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease (2019-nCoV ARD)**  
**Situation Report (SitRep) No. 5**  
**As of 04 February 2020, 1700H**

**I. Situational Background**

The Department of Health (DOH) announced on 30 January 2020 the first confirmed case of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease (2019-nCoV ARD) in the Philippines. The World Health Organization (WHO) has likewise declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern over the global outbreak.

The WHO's 2019-nCoV ARD Situation Report 14<sup>1</sup> dated 3 February 2020<sup>2</sup> reported no new countries reported cases of 2019-nCoV within the last 24 hours. However, WHO also reported that as of February 3, 2020, there are 17,391 confirmed cases of the disease globally. While 17,238 of these cases are in China, the country of origin, the 2019-nCoV ARD has spread to 23<sup>3</sup> other countries with 153 (including the Philippines) confirmed cases. This has led to 361 deaths in China. On 2 February 2020, DOH confirmed the death of the second confirmed case of the 2019-nCoV ARD.<sup>4</sup> This marks the first 2019-nCoV ARD death outside China. Risk of further spread is assessed as "very high" in China, "high" in the region, and "high" globally, due to human-to-human transmission, the rapid increase in cases, and high volumes of domestic and international travel.



Source: Department of Health

The DOH 2019-nCoV Situation Report<sup>5</sup> as of February 04, 2020 noted that as of 4 February, 12:00 NN, there are **two (2) confirmed cases** of the 2019-nCoV and **105 Patients Under Investigation (PUI)** in the Philippines with two(2) regions<sup>6</sup> with new PUI cases while six(6)<sup>7</sup> regions are with additional cases from the last situation report. The Department of Health

<sup>1</sup> WHO, 2019-nCoV Situation Report – 14 issued 04 February 2020

[https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200203-sitrep-14-ncov.pdf?sfvrsn=f7347413\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200203-sitrep-14-ncov.pdf?sfvrsn=f7347413_2)

<sup>2</sup> Following the Geneva, Switzerland time zone where the headquarters of the WHO is located (GMT+1); Seven hours delayed from the Philippines (GMT +8)

<sup>3</sup> Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America, United Arab Emirates, and Viet Nam

<sup>4</sup> Department of Health, Press Release issued 2 February 2020 <https://www.doh.gov.ph/press-release/DOH-reveals-more-negative-2019-nCoV-cases-confirms-first-nCoV-ARD-death-in-PH>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/basic-page/2019-ncov-situational-tracker-02042020.jpg>

<sup>6</sup> CAR, Calabarzon

<sup>7</sup> Central Luzon (4), NCR (2), Western Visayas (2), Central Visayas (5), Eastern Visayas (2), Davao (4)

explained that the substantial increase in the number of PUIs is due to the strengthened surveillance system and contact tracing of the Epidemiology Bureau and the expansion of PUI category coverage to the whole of China.

The first confirmed case is a Chinese woman from Wuhan, China, who then flew to Hongkong, then to Cebu, then to Dumaguete and finally landed in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. She is presently confined at San Lazaro. The patient is being treated and isolated. The second confirmed case was the companion of the Chinese woman from Wuhan, China. Moreover, the first recorded mortality of the 2019-nCoV ARD is the travelling companion of the woman who tested positive for the 2019-nCoV ARD<sup>5</sup>.

Any person who has been to Hubei province, as well as other places in China where the 2019-nCoV ARD has spread, as officially confirmed by the Chinese government, and those traveling to and from mainland China, Macao, and Hong Kong is temporarily banned to enter the country. Filipino citizens and permanent residents are required to undergo a 14-day quarantine upon entering the country.<sup>6</sup>

The public is advised to remain calm but vigilant. Always practice hand hygiene, observe proper cough etiquette (maintain distance and cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the crook of your elbow); avoid close contact with people manifesting flu - like symptoms; avoid contact with farm and wild animals; cook food properly; and adopt healthy lifestyles to mount immunity against infections.

## **II. Actions Taken by the Department of Health**

The DOH during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) Meeting for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases convened last January 31, 2020 reported the following actions taken:

- a. Command and Coordination: establishment of the Task Force on the 2019-nCoV ARD; issuance of interim guidelines on the 2019-nCoV ARD; daily consultations with the WHO; command conferences and Task Force Meetings
- b. DOH discussed developments and next steps on the management of 2019-nCoV ARD in the country in the Senate and Cabinet meeting today.
- c. PUIs are currently admitted and isolated. DOH implemented stricter infection control measures in hospitals with PUIs. Also, DOH in coordination with Bureau of Quarantine is conducting contact tracing of passengers aboard the flights of the two positive cases.
- d. Public Health Measures and Surveillance: expanded temporary travel ban on visitors to include mainland China and its Special Administrative Regions – Hong Kong and Macao<sup>7</sup>; heightened border screening through thermal scanning and health declaration checklist; use of decision table in evaluating sick passengers; triaging at the arrival area on sick passengers; laboratory and hospital preparedness; establishment of the 2019-nCoV ARD surveillance with daily update releases.

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<sup>5</sup> Department of Health *op cit*.

<sup>6</sup> Parrocha, Azer. "Duterte extends temporary ban on travelers from China, HK, Macao." *Philippine News Agency*, February 02, 2020. Accessed February 02, 2020.

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1092691?fbclid=IwAR0i08LXhPSC075wjgP0mlddOHsBOtHNssic1H4rFF3j2FVoTJTkEoUw3f>

- e. Risk Communications: risk communications in all communication venues; intensified public information campaign through traditional and social media; dedicated landing page in the DOH website (<https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCov>); mechanism set to counter fake news and rumors.
  - f. Networking: activation and convening of the IATF; resolution on travel restrictions; repatriation of overseas Filipinos in Hubei who expressed interest to go home, subject to applicable protocols.
  - g. Case Management: isolation with dedicated medical team in shifts; vigorous and active contact training; infection prevention and control, especially with staff and hospital workers.
  - h.
- III. Actions Taken by the Department of Education

DATE	DETAILS
As of 04 February, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sec. Leonor M. Briones attended the Senate Hearing for the updates from the Department of Health and the DOH's ways forward in reducing the cases of 2019- nCoV in the Philippines.</li> <li>• DepEd with the decision from Sec. Briones cancelled major activities to be held within the next months.</li> </ul>
As of 03 February, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consulted the Department of Health on the DepEd guidelines for the prevention and control of the spread of the 2019-nCoV ARD;</li> <li>• Convened the DepEd Quick Response and Recovery Team (QRRT) focusing on the 2019-nCoV ARD to agree on immediate actions undertaken to limit the spread of the virus in schools</li> </ul>
As of 02 February, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issued Department of Education Memorandum No. 11 s, 2020 on the Creation of a Task Force to Manage DepEd Response to the 2019-nCoV ARD delegating the Secretary as Chairperson of the Policy Group and Assistant Secretary for Administration as Head of the Operations Group to be assisted by the Quick Response and Recovery Team members led by the School Health Division</li> </ul>
As of 01 February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issued the Department of Education's Response on Health Problems due to Coronavirus and Re-Emergence of Polio in the Philippines (OUA Memo 08-0120-0598);</li> <li>• Attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> IATF Meeting for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases as an observer, where it was agreed to maximize school-based campaigns on the 2019-nCoV ARD;</li> <li>• DepEd Regional Offices (CAR, R4-B, R7, R8, R10, R11, R12, and R13) and Division Offices (Panabo City and Calapan City) issued Memorandum on measures to counter the spread of the disease;</li> <li>• SDO Calapan City conducted a brief orientation for learners and discussed 2019-nCoV ARD during PTA assemblies, attended Emergency CDRPMC meeting, integrated discussions on 2019-nCoV ARD on lessons, and encouraged group handwashing activities in schools and frequent hand sanitation; and</li> <li>• DepEd Central Office and field offices continued to disseminate IEC materials on the 2019-nCoV ARD, including preventive measures prescribed by the DOH.</li> </ul>

IV. Next Steps and Recommendations

DepEd shall:

- Continue to monitor and disseminate updates from DOH and WHO, and coordinate with regions and divisions;
- Coordinate with the School Health Division of the Bureau of Learner Support Services for the issuance of guidelines and measures for the 2019-nCoV ARD; and
- Continue to coordinate with the DepEd Quick Response and Recovery Team (QRRT) for implementation of agreed immediate actions in response to the 2019-nCoV ARD.

**Prepared by:**  
DRRMS