



COVID-19 UPDATE AND CONSIDERATIONS

Background

On 3 February 2020, the Department of Health (“DOH”) issued Memorandum No. 2020-0056 to address the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) and its confirmed case of human-to-human transmission.¹ Memorandum No. 2020-0056 imposed guidelines to be observed in workplaces to mitigate the possible transmission of COVID-19.

As a response to the confirmed local transmission of COVID-19 in the Philippines, on 9 March 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte, through Executive Secretary Salvador C. Medialdea, issued Proclamation No. 922, declaring a state of public health and emergency throughout the Philippines.

A few days thereafter, a Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 13 March 2020 was issued, providing guidelines on the imposition of stringent social distancing measures, and placing the entire National Capital Region (“NCR”) under Community Quarantine for thirty (30) days starting 15 March 2020 until 14 April 2020. Flexible working arrangements were encouraged, while all land, domestic air and sea travel to and from NCR were restricted.

With the Metro Manila Council (“MMC”) recommending that Local Government Units (“LGUs”) impose curfew in their respective jurisdictions, several cities within Metro Manila started issuing ordinances imposing an 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. curfew.² Meanwhile, LGUs outside the NCR began limiting the movement of their constituents outside their residences.³

To further limit the spread of the virus, the President issued Proclamation No. 929, declaring a state of calamity throughout the Philippines and thus putting the entire Luzon region in an Enhanced Community Quarantine (“ECQ”) beginning 17 March 2020 until 12 April 2020.

Pursuant to Proclamation No. 929, the Executive Secretary issued another Memorandum dated 16 March 2020, imposing stricter measures, such as: (1) limiting the movement of citizens to access of basic necessities; (2) deploying uniformed personnel to enforce quarantine procedures; and (3) only allowing the operation of private establishments that provide basic necessities and other activities related to food and medicine production.

¹ DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-0056 dated 3 February 2020, p. 1.

² See City of Muntinlupa Ordinance No. 2020-065, entitled “An Ordinance Imposing Curfew in the City of Muntinlupa from 8:00 pm to 5:00 am, providing Exemptions and Penalties Therefor and for Other Purposes, 14 March 2020; See also City of Makati Executive Order No. 10 dated 15 March 2020, entitled “An Order Implementing Strict Social Distancing in the City of Makati to Control and Limit Exposure to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).”

³ City of Davao Executive Order No. 10, entitled “A Declaration to Declare the Entire of Davao City Under a Community Quarantine”; City of Cebu Executive Order No. 052, entitled “An Order Declaring a State of General Community Quarantine in the City of Cebu & Providing Guidelines Thereto.”



On 17 March 2020, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (“IATF”) released Resolution No. 13, which further details the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in NCR.⁴ At around the same time, the IATF likewise released its Bulletin No. 1 on the Basic Do’s and Don’t’s during the Luzon Enhanced Community Quarantine.⁵ On 18 March 2020, a Memorandum from the Executive Secretary on the additional guidelines for the Enhanced Community Quarantine was released.⁶

A week after, Republic Act No. 11469, otherwise known as the Bayanihan to Heal As One Act, was enacted. Citing Article VI, Section 23 (2) of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the President was authorized to carry out certain emergency powers to respond to the COVID-19 crisis.⁷ Key provisions of the law include: (1) the provision of emergency subsidy to low income households;⁸ (2) the provision of a “COVID-19 special risk allowance” and other additional compensation for public health workers;⁹ (3) the grant to the President of the power to direct privately-owned hospital and medical facilities and public transportation to address urgent needs;¹⁰ (4) the expeditious procurement of goods, utilities and other services necessary to control the pandemic;¹¹ (5) the discontinuance of appropriated programs, projects or activities of any agency of the Executive Department and the utilization of the savings generated therefrom to augment certain portions of the national budget;¹² (6) the grant to the President of the power to move statutory deadlines and timelines for the filing and submission of any document, the payment of taxes, fees, and other charges required by law, and the grant of any benefit;¹³ and (7) the directive to grant a thirty (30)-day grace period for the payment of loans and rents.¹⁴ In the same law, the President was obligated to submit a weekly report to Congress regarding the acts performed in connection with the law.¹⁵ Penalties were also provided for public and private persons who commit any of the prohibited acts enumerated in the Bayanihan to Heal As One Act.¹⁶

On 7 April 2020, through a Memorandum from the Executive Secretary, the Enhanced Community Quarantine over the entire Luzon was extended until 30 April 2020.¹⁷

Since the declaration of a state of public health and emergency, various departments and government offices have released their respective guidelines to adapt to mobility and operational restrictions occasioned by the ECQ. The key COVID-19-related issuances are enumerated below.

⁴ IATF Resolution dated 17 March 2020.

⁵ Luzon Enhanced Community Quarantine Basic DO’s and DON’T’s Bulletin No. 1 from the COVID-19 Task Force.

⁶ Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 18 March 2020

⁷ Rep. Act No. 11469 (2020), Sec. 4.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Sec. 4 (c).

⁹ *Id.*, Sec. 4 (d), (e), (f).

¹⁰ *Id.*, Sec. 4 (h).

¹¹ *Id.*, Sec. 4 (k).

¹² *Id.*, Sec. 4 (v), (w), (x).

¹³ *Id.*, Sec. 4 (z).

¹⁴ *Id.*, Sec. 4 (aa) and (bb).

¹⁵ *Id.*, Sec. 5.

¹⁶ *Id.*, Sec. 6.

¹⁷ Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 7 April 2020, p. 1.



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COVID-19 RELATED GOVERNMENT ISSUANCES

General Restrictions

- Enhanced Community Quarantine over the Entire Luzon¹⁸
- Work-From-Home Arrangements for Offices under the Executive Branch¹⁹
- Private Establishments Providing Basic Necessities Allowed to Operate²⁰
- Business Process Outsourcing Establishments and Export-Oriented Industries²¹
- Mandatory Wearing of Face Masks²²

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

A. Department of Labor and Employment

- Establishment of “CAMP” for Affected Workers²³
- Establishment of “TUPAD” Program²⁴
- Guidelines on Flexible Work Arrangements²⁵
- Guidelines on Payment of Holiday Pay for April 2020²⁶
- Non-Inclusion of the ECQ Period in the Probationary Period²⁷

B. National Labor Relations Commission

- Suspension of Work in the National Labor Relations Commission²⁸

C. Social Security System

- Extension of Filing Sickness Notifications and Benefit Claims²⁹
- Extension of Remittance Contributions³⁰
- Moratorium on Short-Term Loan Payments of SSS Members³¹

¹⁸ Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 16 March 2020, p. 1; Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 7 April 2020

¹⁹ Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 16 March 2020

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Id. Please refer also to IATF Resolution No. 14 dated 20 March 2020

²² Please refer to IATF Resolution No. 18 dated 1 April 2020

²³ Please refer to DOLE Department Order (“D.O.”) No. 209, series of 2020, Article III, Secs. 2 and 3; DOLE Labor Advisory (“LA”) No. 12, series of 2020 and DOLE LA No. 12-A, series of 2020.

²⁴ Please refer to DOLE D.O. No. 210 series of 2020, Secs. 1 and 2.

²⁵ Please refer to DOLE LA No. 9, series of 2020 and DOLE LA No. 12, series of 2020.

²⁶ Please refer to DOLE LA No. 13-A, series of 2020 and DOLE LA No. 13, series of 2020.

²⁷ Please refer to DOLE LA No. 14, series of 2020.

²⁸ National Labor Relations Commission (“NLRC”), COVID-19, Advisory No. 05

²⁹ SSS Memorandum Circular No. 2020-004

³⁰ SSS Memorandum Circular No. 2020-006

³¹ SSS Memorandum Circular No. 2020-007



D. Home Development Mutual Fund

- Moratorium on All Pag-IBIG Fund Loans³²

E. Philippine Health Insurance Corporation

- PhilHealth Guidelines on Payment of Contributions³³

TAX

A. Bureau of Internal Revenue

- Exemption of Importation and Donation of Equipment or Supplies from VAT, Excise Tax, Other Fees, and Donor's Tax³⁴
- Extension of Deadlines of Various Tax Returns and Documents³⁵
- DST Not to Be Imposed on Qualified Loans Falling Due Within the ECQ Period³⁶
- Amendments of Tax Returns Not Subject to Penalties³⁷
- Donations Given Under the Bayanihan to Heal As One Act Fully Deductible Against the Gross Income of the Donor³⁸
- Exemption from Donor's Tax and Deductibility of Donations/Gifts Given to Private Hospitals and/or NGOs During the State of National Emergency, for the Sole and Exclusive Purpose of Combatting COVID-19³⁹
- Extension of the Period to File Application(s) for New ATPs Where the Expiration Date(s) Falls Within the ECQ Period⁴⁰

B. Bureau of Customs

- Guidelines at All Seaports for Prevention of Spread of COVID-19⁴¹
- Exemption of Donated or Leased Relief During State of Calamity From Payment of Duties and Taxes⁴²
- Provisional Goods Declaration for Relief Consignment Under a State of Calamity⁴³

³² Pag-IBIG Offers three-month moratorium on all loans, available at www.pagibigfund.gov.ph/2020news.html#mar182020_8 (last accessed 13 April 2020).

³³ Extension of Deadline of Premium Payment, available at <https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/advisories/2020/adv2020-0021.pdf> (last accessed 13 April 2020)

³⁴ Revenue Regulations No. 6-2020 dated 30 March 2020

³⁵ Revenue Regulations No. 7-2020 dated 27 March 2020, as amended by Revenue Regulations No. 10-2020 dated 9 April 2020

³⁶ Revenue Regulations No. 8-2020 dated 1 April 2020 as clarified and amended by Revenue Memorandum Circular Nos. 35-2020 and 36-2020 dated 2 April 2020 and 3 April 2020, respectively.

³⁷ Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 37-2020 dated 6 April 2020

³⁸ Revenue Regulations No. 9-2020 dated 6 April 2020

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 41-2020 dated 30 March 2020

⁴¹ CMO No. 05-2020 dated February 10, 2020

⁴² Joint Administrative Order No. 01-2020 dated 16 March 2020

⁴³ OCOM Memo No. 53-2020 dated 17 March 2020



- Conduct of Hearings in All Forfeiture Proceedings⁴⁴
- Processing of Donated Emergency Supplies⁴⁵
- All Customs Accreditation Expiring During the ECQ Period Remain Valid⁴⁶
- MICP Building on temporary closure immediately and until further notice⁴⁷
- The 7-Day Period to Lodge Goods Declaration Suspended⁴⁸
- Online filing of goods declaration, following the interim guidelines⁴⁹
- Exemption of Importation of Equipment and Supplies From Taxes, Duties, and Fees⁵⁰
- Accreditation pass to allow physical access to BOC premises and presented at established checkpoints during ECQ⁵¹

C. Local Government Units

- Makati City⁵²
- Manila City⁵³
- Parañaque City⁵⁴
- Pasig City⁵⁵
- Quezon City⁵⁶
- Taguig City⁵⁷

BUSINESS AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

A. Securities and Exchange Commission

- Extension on the Filing of the 2019 Annual Reports and the Quarterly Reports for 2020⁵⁸

⁴⁴ OCOM Memo No. 54-2020 dated 18 March 2020

⁴⁵ OCOM Memo No. 56-2020 dated 23 March 2020

⁴⁶ OCOM Memo No. 57-2020 dated 19 March 2020

⁴⁷ OCOM Memo No. 58-2020 dated 24 March 2020

⁴⁸ OCOM Memo No. 60-2020 dated 23 March 2020

⁴⁹ OCOM Memo No. 61-2020 dated 24 March 2020

⁵⁰ CAO No. 7-2020 dated 30 March 2020

⁵¹ OCOM Memo No. 62-2020 dated 25 March 2020

⁵² See Makati City News Advisory, *available online*

⁵³ See Manila City News Advisory, *available at* <http://manila.gov.ph/2020/03/bayarin-sa-real-property-tax-extended-na/> (last accessed 13 April 2020).

⁵⁴ See Parañaque City Advisory, *available at* <https://www.facebook.com/mayoredwinolivarezofficial/photos/a.531812346897672/2870326723046211/?type=3&theater> (last accessed 13 April 2020). Business Permits and Licensing Office, Parañaque City. Memorandum on Extension of Payment of Local Business Taxes for the Second Quarter of Taxable Year 2020 dated 21 March 2020.

⁵⁵ See Pasig City News Update, *available at* <https://www.facebook.com/PasigPIO/photos/a.881450725347380/1653762981449480/?type=3&theater> (last accessed 13 April 2020).

⁵⁶ See Quezon City News Update, *available at* <https://quezoncity.gov.ph/index.php/covid-updates/item/118-tax-payment-extended?tmpl=component&print=1> (last accessed 13 April 2020).

⁵⁷ See Taguig City COVID-19 Bulletin No. 14 dated 1 April 2020, *available at* <https://www.facebook.com/taguigcity/photos/a.190188981013600/3250744188291382/?type=3&theater> (last accessed 13 April 2020).

⁵⁸ SEC Memorandum Circular No. 05, 12 March 2020



- Attendance of Regular and Special Meetings Through Remote Communication⁵⁹
- SEC's Adoption of Work-From-Home Arrangements and Contact Details⁶⁰
- Publicly Listed Companies Filing Structured and Current Reports Thru PSE EDGE⁶¹
- Submission of General Information Sheet During ECQ⁶²
- Dispensing the Requirements of Sworn Certification by the Company and its External Auditor⁶³
- Submission of GIS, AFS, and All Other Special Forms and Letters During the ECQ Through Electronic Mail⁶⁴
- Online Applications for the Registration of Corporations and Partnerships Through the Company Registration System⁶⁵
- Filing of Monitoring Clearance Documents for Amendments to Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws and Increase/Decrease of Capital Stock and Merger and Consolidation Through Electronic Mail⁶⁶
- Guidelines for the Alternative Filing of Reports, Applications, Compliance, Requests and Other Documents Through Electronic Mail During the ECQ⁶⁷
- Suspension of Cumulative Penalties for Covered Companies in View of COVID-19
- Extension of Period to Submit 2019 Annual Reports of All SEC Accredited Asset Valuers and Credit Rating Agencies⁶⁸
- Suspension of the SEC Express System and Requests for SEC Documents
- Filing of SEC Form 17-Lc in Lieu of Written Requests for Extension of Filing 17-A or 17-Q Reports and Filing of Notice of Postponement of Annual Stockholders Meeting⁶⁹
- Implementation of an Online Registration System for One Person Corporations and Corporations With Two (2) to Four (4) Incorporators⁷⁰
- Suspension/Postponement of All Hearings and Conferences Scheduled Between 17 March 2020 Until 30 April 2020, or During the Period of the ECQ⁷¹
- Reglementary Periods Suspended⁷²

B. Department of Trade and Industry

- Unhampered Movement of All Cargoes and Movement of People for Production, Processing, Distribution and Sale of Food, Medicine and Other Essential Goods; Operation of BPO Companies and Export-Oriented Companies⁷³

⁵⁹ SEC Memorandum Circular No. 06, 12 March 2020

⁶⁰ SEC Notice dated 17 March 2020

⁶¹ SEC Notice dated 17 March 2020

⁶² SEC Memorandum Circular No. 09, 18 March 2020

⁶³ SEC Notice dated 18 March 2020

⁶⁴ SEC Notice dated 19 March 2020

⁶⁵ SEC Notice dated 20 March 2020

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Id.

⁶⁸ SEC Notice dated 2 April 2020

⁶⁹ SEC Notice dated 3 April 2020

⁷⁰ SEC Notice dated 8 April 2020

⁷¹ SEC Advisory dated 8 April 2020

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ DTI Memorandum Circular, 18 March 2020



- Price Freeze for All Basic Necessities During the ECQ⁷⁴
- Unhampered Movement of Cargo and Transit of Personnel of Business Establishments Allowed to Operate During the ECQ of Luzon⁷⁵
- Limitation to the Sale and Purchase of Vital and Essential to Avoid Hoarding and Panic Buying⁷⁶
- Expansion of List of Entities Allowed to Operate During the ECQ⁷⁷
- Expanded List of Essential Goods Covered by the Anti-Hoarding, Anti-Panic Directive⁷⁸
- Operation of Other Economic Activities in the Supply Chain of Food and Essential Products, Medicines and Medical Products, Such as Production of Raw and Processed Materials, Packaging and Other Inputs⁷⁹
- Concessions on Residential and Commercial Rent of Small and Medium Enterprises⁸⁰
- Operations of BPOs, Export Enterprises, and Their Service Providers are Subject to Further Guidelines Issued By the DTI⁸¹
- Extension of the Operating Hours for Retail Establishment to Twelve (12) Hours a Day⁸²
- Covered Entities Allowed to Operate During the ECQ Expanded to Include Pet Food, Hygiene Products, and Hardware⁸³

C. Philippine Economic Zone Authority

- Continuous Operation of the PEZA Subject to Work-From-Home Arrangements⁸⁴
- Unhampered Movement of Ecozone Cargoes and Ecozone Company Shuttle Buses Within the Ecozones⁸⁵
- Suspension of All Business Operations in Cavite Economic Zone 1 & 2 Until Further Notice⁸⁶
- Extension of the Validity of LOAs of PEZA-Accredited Service Enterprises to 30 June 2020⁸⁷
- Online PEZA E-Import Permit Validation by PEZA-JPCOs at the NAIA, MICP, and POM While Under ECQ

⁷⁴ DTI Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-01, 18 March 2020

⁷⁵ DTI Memorandum Circular No. 20-06, 19 March 2020

⁷⁶ DTI Memorandum Circular No. 20-07, 19 March 2020

⁷⁷ DTI Memorandum Circular No. 20-08, 20 March 2020

⁷⁸ DTI Memorandum Circular No. 20-10, 31 March 2020

⁷⁹ DTI Memorandum Circular No. 20-11, 31 March 2020

⁸⁰ DTI Memorandum Circular No. 20-12, 4 April 2020

⁸¹ DTI Memorandum Circular No. 20-14, 11 April 2020

⁸² DTI Memorandum Circular No. 20-15, 11 April 2020

⁸³ DTI Memorandum Circular No. 20-16, 13 April 2020

⁸⁴ PEZA Memorandum Circular No. 2020-012, 13 March 2020

⁸⁵ PEZA Advisory dated 20 March 2020

⁸⁶ CEZ Memorandum Circular No. 2020-013, 19 March 2020

⁸⁷ PEZA Memorandum Circular No. 2020-017, 25 March 2020



D. Philippine Competition Commission

- Suspension of Certain Merger Processes and Timelines in View of Community⁸⁸
- Quarantine and Alternative Work Arrangement to Manage the COVID-19 Situation⁸⁹
- Interruption of the Reglementary Periods for the Filing of Pleadings, Motions, and Submissions to the Commission and the Payment of Fines or Penalties⁹⁰

E. Board of Investments

- Implementation of Work-From-Home Arrangements and Guidelines on the Submission of Reportorial Requirements and Applications⁹¹
- Adjustment of Deadlines for the Filing of Incentives Applications and/or Submission of Reports for all BOI-Registered Enterprises and Holders of Special Investor's Resident Visa⁹²

F. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

- Transmission of All Communications and Periodic Reports for Submission to the Financial Supervision Sector Via Email⁹³
- Eligibility of All BSP-Supervised Financial Institutions to Avail of the Regulatory Relief Package Within One (1) Year from 8 March 2020⁹⁴
- Operational Relief Measures for Foreign Exchange Transactions⁹⁵
- Deferment of Weekly Submission of FX Form 1 Report and Rescheduling of the Implementation of the International Transactions Reporting System for Banks⁹⁶
- Submission of Reports/Documents and Communications Through Electronic Mail⁹⁷
- Monetary Board Approval of Relaxation of the Requirement of Presentation of ID, Subject to Certain Conditions Under Section 921 of the Manual of Regulations For Banks), Effective During the Period of ECQ/CQ and Until 30 June 2020⁹⁸
- Frequently Asked Questions on the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Section 4(aa) of the Bayanihan To Heal as One Act⁹⁹
- Reduction of Minimum Liquidity Ratio in Response to COVID-19¹⁰⁰

⁸⁸ PCC Resolution No. 007-2020, 16 March 2020

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ PCC Resolution No. 008-2020, 18 March 2020

⁹¹ Board of Investments Advisory dated 20 March 2020

⁹² Board of Investments Advisory dated 22 March 2020

⁹³ BSP Memorandum Circular No. M-2020-007, 13 March 2020

⁹⁴ BSP Memorandum No. M-2020-008, 14 March 2020

⁹⁵ BSP Memorandum Circular No. 1080, Series of 2020, 27 March 2020

⁹⁶ BSP Memorandum No. M-2020-012, 19 March 2020

⁹⁷ BSP Memorandum No. M-2020-016, 31 March 2020.

⁹⁸ BSP Memorandum No. M-2020-015, 30 March 2020

⁹⁹ BSP Memorandum No. M-2020-018, 6 April 2020.

¹⁰⁰ BSP Memorandum No. M-2020-020, 7 April 2020



G. Department of Finance

- Implementing Rules and Regulations Providing for a Thirty (30)-Day Extension for Loan Payments¹⁰¹
- Liberalization of the Grant of Incentives for the Manufacture or Importation of Critical or Needed Equipment or Supplies¹⁰²

H. Department of Energy

- Movement of Energy-Related Goods¹⁰³
- Movement of Energy Personnel¹⁰⁴
- Foreign Service Providers¹⁰⁵
- Extension of Permits¹⁰⁶

I. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

- Submission of Reportorial Requirements¹⁰⁷

J. Energy Regulatory Commission

- Extension of Payments of Customer Electricity Bills¹⁰⁸
- Extension of Payments Due to Other Entities¹⁰⁹

LITIGATION AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

A. Supreme Court

- Courts Nationwide Shall Be Physically Closed Starting 23 March 2020 Until 30 April 2020¹¹⁰
- Reglementary Periods Extended¹¹¹
- Filing of Criminal Complaints and Informations Through Email¹¹²

¹⁰¹ DOF IRR of Section 4 (aa) of Republic Act No. 11469, otherwise Known as the “Bayanihan to Heal as One Act”, 1 April 2020

¹⁰² DOF Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-02, March 28, 2020

¹⁰³ Department of Energy, Memorandum from the Secretary, Sec. (A)(1)

¹⁰⁴ Ibid., at Sec. (B)(3).

¹⁰⁵ Id., at Sec. (B)(4).

¹⁰⁶ Id., at Sec. (C)(5).

¹⁰⁷ DENR Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Notice dated 20 March 2020

¹⁰⁸ Energy Regulatory Commission Advisory dated 26 March 2020

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Please refer to Supreme Court Administrative Circular Nos. 32-2020 and 34-2020

¹¹¹ Supreme Court Administrative Circular No. 34-2020, par. 7

¹¹² Please refer to Supreme Court Administrative Circular Nos. 28-2020, 33-2020 and Office of the Court Administrator Circular No. 89-2020 dated 3 April 2020.



B. Department of Justice

- Reglementary Periods Interrupted¹¹³
- Criminal Proceedings in NCR and Regions I-V¹¹⁴
- Court Hearings on Urgent Matters¹¹⁵

C. Office of the Ombudsman

- The Office of the Ombudsman Will Be Closed Until 30 April 2020

D. Department of Agrarian Reform

- Suspension of Proceedings¹¹⁶

E. Insurance Commission

- Reduced Operations at the Insurance Commission Head Office¹¹⁷
- Suspension of Proceedings¹¹⁸

F. Office of the President

- Proceedings with the Office of the President Suspended¹¹⁹

MOBILITY AND TRAVEL

A. Office of the President

- Outbound International Travel Restrictions¹²⁰

B. Department of Foreign Affairs

- Temporary Suspension of Visa Issuance¹²¹

¹¹³ Department of Justice, Department Circular No. 008-B, Part II

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ Department of Justice, Department Circular No. 008-B, Part III

¹¹⁶ Memorandum Circular Nos. 1 and 2, s. 2020

¹¹⁷ Insurance Commission Advisory to the Public Re: Operations at the IC Head Office dated 22 March 2020

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ Office of the President Administrative Order No. 29 dated 7 April 2020

¹²⁰ Please refer to POEA Advisory No. 21, Series of 2020 and Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 18 March 2020. For the list of travel restrictions implemented by foreign countries, see the DFA website.

¹²¹ DFA Public Advisory dated 19 March 2020



C. Bureau of Immigration

- Temporary Suspension on Entry of Incoming Foreign Nationals¹²²
- Temporary Suspension of Immigration Related Transactions¹²³
- Waiver of Fines and Penalties Related to Visa Extension¹²⁴
- Temporary Suspension of Board of Commissioners Agenda¹²⁵
- Allowing Foreign Nationals with Approved Visas to Leave the Philippines¹²⁶
- Allowing Foreign Nationals who are Awaiting the Release of their ACR I-card Waiver Orders to Leave the Philippines¹²⁷
- Allowing Foreign Nationals who are Awaiting their Grace Period Orders to Leave the Philippines¹²⁸
- Temporary Suspension of Other Immigration-Related Transactions¹²⁹

D. Department of Justice

- Temporary Suspension of 47(a)(2) Visa Applications and Applications for Recognition of Refugee and Statelessness Status¹³⁰

E. Department of Labor and Employment

- Temporary Suspension of Applications for Alien Employment Permit¹³¹

F. Philippine National Police

- Authorized Persons Outside Residence¹³²

G. Department of Health

- Cruise Ships and Vessels¹³³
- Repatriation of Overseas Filipino Workers¹³⁴
- Departure Protocols¹³⁵

¹²² BI Memorandum dated 19 March 2020

¹²³ BI Advisory dated 19 March 2020

¹²⁴ BI Advisory dated 26 March 2020

¹²⁵ BI Note with Recommendation dated 19 March 2020

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*

¹²⁷ BI Advisory dated 23 March 2020

¹²⁸ BI Note with Recommendation dated 20 March 2020

¹²⁹ BI Note with Recommendation dated 24 March 2020

¹³⁰ DOJ Circular No. 11 dated 13 March 2020

¹³¹ DOLE Advisory No. 20-04 dated 23 March 2020

¹³² Please refer to the Presentation of PNP Joint Task Force CV Shield dated 17 April 2020

¹³³ Department of Health, Department Circular No. 2020-0034, Part A

¹³⁴ Department of Health, Department Circular No. 2020-0040, Part II(A).

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*, Part III(A).



H. Department of Transportation

- Cessation of Domestic Flight Operations¹³⁶
- Cargo Vessels' Crew Subject to Quarantine¹³⁷

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND DATA PRIVACY

A. Intellectual Property Office

- Suspension of IPOPHL's Operations, Hearings, and Mediations¹³⁸
- Extension of Deadline for Filing Declarations, Responses and Pleadings¹³⁹
- Filing of Applications Claiming Priority and Payment of Fees¹⁴⁰
- Filing of Applications Without Priority Claim and Payment of Fees¹⁴¹
- Field Office Operations¹⁴²

B. National Privacy Commission

- Suspension of Hearings Until Further Notice¹⁴³
- NPC PHE Bulletin No. 3: Data Protection in Times of Emergency¹⁴⁴
- NPC PHE Bulletin No. 4: Protecting Personal Data in the Time of COVID-19¹⁴⁵
- NPC PHE Bulletin No. 6: Collect the Minimum Necessary Information in Providing Financial Aid and Other Relief Packages to Those Affected by ECQ¹⁴⁶
- NPC PHE Bulletin No. 7: Official Statement of the National Privacy Commission on Calls for Patients to Waive Privacy Rights, Publicly Disclose Health Status¹⁴⁷

¹³⁶ Department of Transportation Task Group Guidelines for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease, Part II (C), Par. 1.

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*, Part II (D), Par. 1 (iv).

¹³⁸ IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2020-009 dated 07 April 2020

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁰ *Id.*

¹⁴¹ *Id.*

¹⁴² *Id.*

¹⁴³ NPC Advisory dated 12 March 2020 *available* at <https://www.privacy.gov.ph/2020/03/suspension-of-hearing-until-further-notice/> (last accessed 17 April 2020)

¹⁴⁴ NPC PHE Bulletin No. 3 dated 19 March 2020 *available* at <https://www.privacy.gov.ph/2020/03/npc-phe-bulletin-no-3-collect-what-is-necessary-disclose-only-to-the-proper-authority/> (last accessed 17 April 2020).

¹⁴⁵ NPC PHE Bulletin No. 4 dated 23 March 2020 *available* at <https://www.privacy.gov.ph/2020/03/npc-phe-bulletin-no-4-protecting-personal-data-in-the-time-of-covid-19/> (last accessed 17 April 2020).

¹⁴⁶ NPC PHE Bulletin No. 6 dated 04 April 2020 *available* at <https://www.privacy.gov.ph/2020/04/npc-phe-bulletin-no-6-collect-the-minimum-necessary-information-in-providing-financial-aid-and-other-relief-packages-to-those-affected-by-the-enhanced-community-quarantine/> (last accessed 17 April 2020).

¹⁴⁷ NPC PHE Bulletin No. 7 dated 06 April 2020 *available* at <https://www.privacy.gov.ph/2020/04/npc-phe-bulletin-no-7-official-statement-of-the-national-privacy-commission-on-calls-for-patients-to-waive-privacy-rights-publicly-disclose-health-status/> (last accessed 17 April 2020).



HEALTH

A. Department of Health

- Prescription Medicine¹⁴⁸
- Home Quarantine¹⁴⁹
- Level 2 and 3 Hospitals¹⁵⁰
- Hotels and Other Similar Establishments¹⁵¹

B. Food and Drug Administration

- Prohibition on Selling of COVID-19 Test Kits Without FDA Authorization¹⁵²
- Prohibition on Online Selling of Emergency Medical Supplies Beyond the Price Ceiling¹⁵³
- Priority to COVID-19 Related Applications¹⁵⁴
- Automatic Extension for Renewal Applications¹⁵⁵
- Electronic Prescription of Drugs¹⁵⁶
- Monitoring of Health Products Donated to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic¹⁵⁷
- LTO for Companies and Institutions Signifying Their Interest to Manufacture PPEs, Ventilators and Respirators to Address the COVID-19 problem¹⁵⁸

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¹⁴⁸ Administrative Order No. 2017-0008-A; Administrative Order No. 2017-0032-A
¹⁴⁹ Department of Health, Department Circular No. 2020-0090, Part II (C).
¹⁵⁰ Department of Health, Department Circular No. 2020-0107, par. (5).
¹⁵¹ Department of Health, Department Circular No. 2020-0057, Part II (D).
¹⁵² Food and Drug Administration Circular No. 2020-004 dated 12 March 2020
¹⁵³ *Ibid.*
¹⁵⁴ Food and Drug Administration Circular No. 2020-006 dated 17 March 2020, Part IV (A).
¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*
¹⁵⁶ *Id.*
¹⁵⁷ *Id.*
¹⁵⁸ Food and Drug Administration Circular No. 2020-014 dated 8 April 2020, Part III.