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Service Alerts

DOH REVEALS MORE NEGATIVE 2019-NCOV CASES; CONFIRMS FIRST NCOV ARD DEATH IN PH 03 FEB 2020 – ADVISORY #5

Press Release / 2 February 2020

The Department of Health (DOH) and the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) today revealed that as of yesterday, February 1, 2020, twenty-four (24) patients under investigation (PUIs) tested negative for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) while two (2) tested positive. Samples from four (4) other PUIs are currently being tested at RITM.

The two confirmed cases are the previously-announced 38-year-old Chinese female and her companion, a 44-year-old Chinese male who were both admitted for isolation and supportive treatment at San Lazaro Hospital in Sta. Cruz, Manila. Both patients are from Wuhan, China and arrived in the Philippines via Hong Kong last January 21, 2020. The second confirmed case was admitted for pneumonia last January 25, 2020 after experiencing fever, cough, and sore throat.

DOH also confirmed that the 44-year-old male died yesterday, February 1, 2020. Over the course of the patient's admission, he developed severe pneumonia due to viral and bacterial infections (*S. pneumoniae* and Influenza B). In his last few days, the patient was stable and showed signs of improvement, however, the condition of the patient deteriorated within his last 24 hours resulting in his demise.

"I would like to emphasize that this is an imported case with no evidence of local transmission. We are currently working with the Chinese Embassy to ensure the dignified management of the remains according to national and international standards to contain the disease," Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III said.

DOH is assuring the public that all measures needed to contain the spread of the virus is being strictly implemented and followed. San Lazaro Hospital has implemented rigorous infection control protocols while caring for these patients. Both patients were isolated following strict isolation standards, and all health personnel who came in contact with them practiced stringent infection control measures and wore appropriate personal protective equipment.

The Epidemiology Bureau (EB) of the Department is currently conducting contact tracing of passengers aboard the flights of the two positive cases. EB has secured the manifestos of the flights and is in close coordination with the concerned airlines. Contact tracing activities are ongoing in Cebu and Dumaguete, and in other places where the patients stayed and traveled to.

"The Philippine Government has already implemented a temporary travel ban for travelers coming from China, Macao, and Hong Kong. DOH is monitoring every development on the 2019-nCoV very closely and is taking proactive measures to contain the spread of this virus in our country. This health event is fast-evolving and fluid. We are continuously recalibrating our plans and efforts as the situation develops," Duque assured.

"We are providing the public with constant updates and advisories as frequently as possible, so all I ask from the public now is to heed the advisories from official DOH channels and to refrain from sharing unverified and unvalidated information. I assure the public that we will keep you abreast of any information that we have," he added.

Currently, there are no reports of community spread of the virus within the country. However, the public is still reminded to practice prevention measures such as proper hand hygiene and observance of cough etiquette.

As of 12 NN yesterday, February 1, 2020, DOH has reported five (5) additional patients under investigation (PUIs), bringing the total recorded number of PUIs to thirty-six (36). Twenty-three (23) PUIs are currently admitted and isolated, while ten (10) have been discharged under strict monitoring. DOH also reported a total of two (2) confirmed cases with one (1) mortality. The previously-reported PUI mortality was found to be negative for 2019-nCoV.

"The new developments warrant a more diligent approach in containing the threats of the 2019-nCoV. The Department of Health is continuously improving and scaling up its public health measures and the public to remain calm and vigilant," Secretary Duque concluded.

Source: doh.gov.ph

CONTROL MEASURES

To safeguard the safety of all employees and global maritime professional (GMPs) at First Maritime Place (FMP), the following measures will be immediately implemented:

1. **Temperature screening to detect potential cases upon entry.** All employees, agency personnel, GMPs and guests entering the company premises shall undergo a temperature check to be conducted by the Security Guard. Individuals with a body temperature of 37.8-degree Celsius and above shall be endorsed to the company doctor for a medical check-up.
2. **Observe proper hand and respiratory hygiene.** The World Health Organization recommends the following measures to help reduce the transmission of illnesses:
 - A. Clean your hands frequently with the use of alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water;
 - B. Cover your mouth and nose with a flexed elbow or a clean tissue when coughing or sneezing. Properly dispose your used tissue and immediately wash your hands afterwards.
 - C. Wear a face mask for protection.
 - D. Avoid crowded areas and unprotected contacts with people (handshaking, cheek to cheek, kissing, etc.)
 - E. Disinfect commonly used surfaces.
 - F. Ensure that your throat or throat mucous is always in a moist condition. Drink plenty of water and make sure you have a bottle of water near you all the time. Take plenty of vitamin C.
3. **Returning traveler to Manila/ Self quarantine.** Employees and GMPs who recently disembarked from China will be advised by Human Resources (HR) and Crewing Offices to go on self-quarantine for two (2) weeks prior to reporting to PTC. **This is to include all GMPs whose vessels have been calling the ports of China, Hongkong and Macau (special attention / risk assessment on ports of Singapore and Taiwan).**
4. **Follow travel restrictions** advised by airlines and airport authorities. Thus, travelers must avoid the following airports: mainland China, Hongkong, Macau, Taiwan and including Singapore.



For questions and comments, please email bcm@ptc.com.ph or call 632 7 798 1111.