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SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
 RECORDS SECTION
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CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 29
Series of 2021

TO : ALL SUGARCANE INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS

FROM : **HERMENEGILDO R. SERAFICA**
 Administrator

DATE : **04 June 2021**

SUBJECT : **IATF-EID Resolution No. 117, Series of 2021**

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) issued Resolution No. 117 dated 27 May 2021, adopting the recommendations of the National Task Force against COVID-19 on **“Refining Priority Group A4 of the COVID-19 Immunization Program.”** The pertinent portion of which is summarized as follows:

1. Outbound Overseas Filipino Workers for deployment within the next four months from the intended date of vaccination shall be re-categorized to Priority Group A1;
2. Immediate family members of healthcare workers shall likewise be included under Priority Group A1, should supply be available;
3. **The following shall be included to be eligible for vaccination under Priority Group A4;**
 - i. **Private sector workers required to be physically present at their designated workplace outside of their residences;**
 - ii. Employees in government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations and local government units; and
 - iii. **Informal sector workers and self-employed who may be required to work outside their residences, and those working in private households.**
4. Vaccine deployment for Priority Group A4 shall be initially focused on the following geographical areas:
 - i. National Capital Region, Bulacan, Pampanga, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao; and



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- ii. Workers from all other areas.
5. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Local Government Units (LGUs) shall be required to exert any and all efforts to continuously prioritize the A1, A2 and A3 Priority Groups by establishing special lanes and/or vaccination centers from them to ensure that health frontliners, senior citizens and other vulnerable sectors of the population continue to be prioritized in the vaccination program. Among the Priority Group A4, LGUs may give preference for persons aged forty to fifty-nine (40-59) over persons aged eighteen to thirty-nine (18-39) years old.

For your information and guidance.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

RESOLUTION NO. 117

Series of 2021

May 27, 2021

WHEREAS, Section 15 Article II of the 1987 Constitution states that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, Section 2 (b) of Executive Order No. 168 (s.2014) mandates the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) to prevent and/or minimize the entry of suspected or confirmed patients with emerging infectious diseases into the country;

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2020, the President issued Proclamation No. 1021 (s.2020) extending the period of the State of Calamity throughout the Philippines until September 21, 2021;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH), the University of the Philippines-Philippine Genome Center (UP-PGC), and the University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH) biosurveillance has detected B.1.1.7, B.1.351, P.1, and P.3 variants of the COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH), the University of the Philippines-Philippine Genome Center (UP-PGC), and the University of the Philippines-National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH) biosurveillance has likewise received information on the existence of B.1.617 variant first detected in India;

WHEREAS, the continued implementation of proactive measures and restrictions must be put in place to slow down the surge in COVID-19 cases, stop further spread of variants, buy time for the health system to cope, and to protect more lives;

WHEREAS, as of May 27, 2021, there are a total of Forty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Nine (48,109) active COVID-19 cases in the Philippines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the IATF approves the following:



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- A. The recommendations of the National Task Force Against Covid-19 on refining Priority Group A4 of the COVID-19 Immunization Program are hereby adopted, the specifics of which are as follows:
1. Outbound Overseas Filipino Workers for deployment within the next four months from the intended date of vaccination shall be re-categorized to Priority Group A1;
 2. Immediate family members of healthcare workers shall likewise be included under Priority Group A1, should supply be available;
 3. The following shall be included to be eligible for vaccination under Priority Group A4:
 - i. Private sector workers required to be physically present at their designated workplace outside of their residences;
 - ii. Employees in government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations and local government units; and
 - iii. Informal sector workers and self-employed who may be required to work outside their residences, and those working in private households.
 4. Vaccine deployment for Priority Group A4 shall be initially focused on the following geographical areas:
 - i. National Capital Region, Bulacan, Pampanga, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Metro Cebu, and Metro Davao; and
 - ii. Workers from all other areas.
 5. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Local Government Units (LGUs) shall be required to exert any and all efforts to continuously prioritize the A1, A2 and A3 Priority Groups by establishing special lanes and/or vaccination centers for them to ensure that health frontliners, senior citizens and other vulnerable sectors of the population continue to be prioritized in the vaccination program. Among the Priority Group A4, LGUs may give preference for persons aged forty to fifty-nine (40-59) over persons aged eighteen to thirty-nine (18 to 39) years old.



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- B. The recommendations of the Sub-Technical Working Group on Information and Communications Technology to further improve on the use of StaySafe.PH is hereby adopted, the specifics of which are as follows:
1. The use of the modules for establishment protection, as well as citizen application, subject to the presentation to the IATF of its operability; and,
 2. The Joint Administrative Order for the Interoperability of All Contact Tracing Applications.
- C. The recommendations of the IATF Technical Working Group, the specifics of which are as follows:
1. DOT-Accredited Accommodation Establishments with Certificates of Authority to Operate for Staycation (CAOS) (“Staycation Hotels”) may accommodate guests for staycation purposes at up to one hundred percent (100%) of their venue capacity. Staycation Hotels may forego with the COVID-19 testing of guests as a prerequisite for accommodation; provided, that only individuals ages 18 to 65 shall be allowed as guests.
 2. Accommodation establishments accredited by the Department of Tourism (DOT) in areas under General Community Quarantine may accommodate guests for leisure purposes for up to thirty percent (30%) of their venue capacity subject to DOT guidelines; provided, that guests shall only come from the same household; and provided, further, that the local government unit with jurisdiction over these Accommodation Establishments shall strictly monitor their compliance with minimum public health standards;
 3. To be included in the Vaccine Information Management System and ease of generating vaccine cards, local government units are mandated to adopt and utilize the Department of Information and Communications Technology Vaccine Administration System (D-VAS), to be done in phases as may be determined by the DICT. The adoption and use of D-VAS is without prejudice to the use of the LGU’s own local database system as a supplementary system.



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The first phase of the D-VAS shall be implemented in the National Capital Region, Region III, Region IV-A, Cebu City, and Davao City.

- D. Off-track betting stations of the Philippine Racing Commission may be allowed to resume, limited to the purpose of selling tickets only, in areas under General Community Quarantine and Modified General Community Quarantine. Provided, that minimum public health standards are strictly observed.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Chairperson and the Co-Chairperson shall be duly authorized to sign this Resolution for and on behalf of the Inter-Agency Task Force.

APPROVED during the 117th Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, held this May 27, 2021, via video conference.

KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES
Secretary, Office of the Cabinet Secretariat
IATF Co-Chairperson



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that:

1. I am presently an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health;
2. I am the OIC-Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases created under Executive Order No. 168, (s.2014) and chaired by the Department of Health (DOH);
3. The IATF Secretariat holds office in the DOH Main Office, San Lazaro Compound, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila;
4. I am the custodian of the records of the IATF, including the Minutes of Meetings and Resolutions;
5. In a regular meeting of the IATF, the IATF Resolution No. 117 was approved and adopted with the Chairperson signifying his objection for the DOH particularly in the second sentence of item A6. DOH maintains its position to prioritize the elderly and protect the most vulnerable age groups given the current limited vaccine supply.
6. The foregoing resolution has been signed by Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles upon the authority of the IATF Members;
7. The aforesaid resolution has not been altered, modified nor revoked and the same is now in full force and effect:
8. I am executing this Certification for whatever legitimate purpose this may serve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 27th day of May 2021, Manila.


ATTY. CHARADE B. MERCADO-GRANDE
Assistant Secretary of Health
Head Secretariat, IATF