



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

18 May 2020

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR**

No. 2020 - 0206

**TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS, SERVICES, 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**

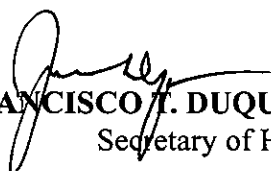
**SUBJECT: Reiteration of the Interim Guidelines on the Return-to-Work During the Coronavirus Disease-19 (COVID-19) Health Situation**

With the recent Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) recommendations of imposing transitional community quarantine measures, and the subsequent opening of certain industries, the Department of Health reiterates the IATF Omnibus Guidelines for Community Quarantine that **testing of all returning workers is not a requirement precedent to his or her return.**

Furthermore, the Department emphasizes that implementing non-pharmaceutical interventions and other minimum health standards in the workplace is of paramount importance, as stated in the Department of Trade and Industry and Department of Labor and Employment Joint Interim Guidelines on Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19.

The DOH also underscores that screening of returning workers shall be based on symptoms and/or exposure. For guidance, an algorithm for screening of returning employees, adopted from the Unified COVID-19 Algorithm of the Philippine Medical Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, may be found in Annex A.

Dissemination of this information to all concerned is requested.

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

## Annex A. Algorithm for Screening Returning Employees and Workers

# Algorithm for Clearing for Return to Work

