



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

29 January 2020

ADVISORY No. 1
Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Health Event

Last 31 December 2019, a clustering of pneumonia cases of unknown etiology was reported in Wuhan, China. The outbreak was later determined to be caused by a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), a new coronavirus strain that has not been previously identified in humans.

As of 28 January 2020, 4,537 novel coronavirus cases are confirmed, with 106 deaths reported globally. Out of these cases, 56 novel coronavirus cases are from countries other than China. There is no confirmed 2019-nCoV case in the Philippines.

Last 28 January 2020, the Department of Health convened the first Interagency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) meeting. The Task Force is chaired by the Department of Health, and members are composed of representatives from the Departments of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Local and Interior Government (DILG), Justice (DOJ), Labor and Employment (DOLE), Tourism (DOT), Transportation (DOTr), and Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

This advisory is issued to inform national agencies, Centers for Health Development and Local Government Units on the Resolution agreed upon and approved during the first Task Force meeting. Anchored on public health principles, the following are their recommendations:

1. Ensure continuous support to Filipinos in China by providing accurate and timely health information, and other necessary support services;
2. Ensure comprehensive transportation and quarantine plans for Filipinos from Hubei Province who opt to voluntarily return. All returning Filipinos shall be quarantined for 14 days;
3. Propose temporary restriction on issuance of visas for travelers coming from Hubei Province of China; and
4. Issue travel advisories temporarily discouraging non-essential travel of Filipinos to China.

For your information and guidance.