

**Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang**

MEMORANDUM FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

FOR : THE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS
Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging
Infectious Diseases (IATF)

SUBJECT : ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO BE OBSERVED RELATIVE TO
THE NEW SARS-COV-2 VARIANTS

DATE : JAN 15 2021

With reference to the (1) joint recommendation of the Department of Health and the Department of Foreign Affairs dated 13 January 2021, submitted pursuant to the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 29 December 2020, relative to the SARS-CoV-2 variant (B.1.1.7 or VUI 2020/12/01) first detected in the United Kingdom (UK variant); (2) IATF Resolution No. 94 (s. 2021), which among others, extends the period of effectivity of travel restrictions relevant to the new variants up to 31 January 2021, and (3) IATF Resolution No. 94-A, recommending the inclusion of the United Arab Emirates and Hungary in the list of countries subject to travel restrictions due to the UK variant, this Office hereby **directs** all relevant agencies to implement the following:

- I. **Inclusion of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Hungary among the countries/jurisdictions subject to travel restrictions**
 - A. Foreign passengers coming from or who have been to the UAE and Hungary within 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines shall be prohibited from entering the country effective 0001H of 17 January 2021 Manila time until 31 January 2021;
 - B. Effective immediately, foreign passengers coming from or who have been to the aforesaid countries within 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, arriving before 0001H of 17 January 2021 Manila time, shall not be prohibited from entering the Philippines but shall be required to undergo an absolute facility-based 14-day quarantine period notwithstanding a negative Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) result;
 - C. Likewise effective immediately, Filipino citizens coming from or who have been to the aforesaid countries within 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, including those arriving after 0001H of 17 January 2021 Manila time, shall not be prohibited from entering the country, but shall be required to undergo an absolute facility-based 14-day quarantine period notwithstanding a negative RT-PCR result;
 - D. Filipino and foreign passengers merely transiting through the aforesaid countries shall be covered by the rules as provided in paragraph II of the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 31 December 2020;

II. **Amendment to the rule on incoming unaccompanied minor Filipino passengers.** Paragraph II of the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 05 January 2021 is amended to read as follows:

- A. All unaccompanied minor Filipino citizens coming from countries/jurisdictions where travel restrictions are in place on account of the UK and South African variants pursuant to the directives of this Office, shall not be allowed boarding by the airlines until 31 January 2021, except if such minors are returning through the repatriation program of the national government. Upon arrival in the Philippines, the repatriated minors shall be turned over to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration house parent who, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), shall ensure the minors' safety and their observance of quarantine protocols.
- B. Unaccompanied minor Filipino citizens who land on Philippine airports notwithstanding the foregoing prohibition against boarding shall not be sent back to their port of departure, but shall be turned over to an authorized DSWD officer who can ensure their safety and observance of quarantine protocols. This is without prejudice to penalties that may be imposed on the airline that allowed them to board, as provided in the applicable laws and rules including those issued by the Department of Transportation and its attached agencies.

Existing prohibitions and procedures on entry generally applicable to arriving passengers, insofar as consistent with the foregoing, shall continue to be implemented.

The IATF may provide rules and regulations to implement this and related directives, which may include reasonable exceptions to the entry restrictions and protocols imposed by this Office in relation to the UK and South African variants.

For strict compliance.

By authority of the President:


SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA
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