



PHILIPPINES

17 MAR 2021

Coronavirus, COVID-19

The following information was received from our correspondent on 17 March:

QUOTE

Please find attached ALON update regarding current situation in regards to COVID 19. Philippines sees large surge in cases and restrictions are being reimposed & new travel restrictions from March 20th to April 19th 2021.

UNQUOTE

Correspondent's contact details

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This Correspondent's advice is published by The Swedish Club as a service to members. While the information is believed correct, the Club cannot assume responsibility for completeness or accuracy.

ALON

Ocean Wave

2021
17th March

PANDIMAN PHILIPPINES Inc.
P&I Correspondent in the Philippines

Topics of interest relating to the Philippine Maritime Industry and Shipping

Current situation in regards to COVID 19

Philippines sees large surge in cases and restrictions are being reimposed

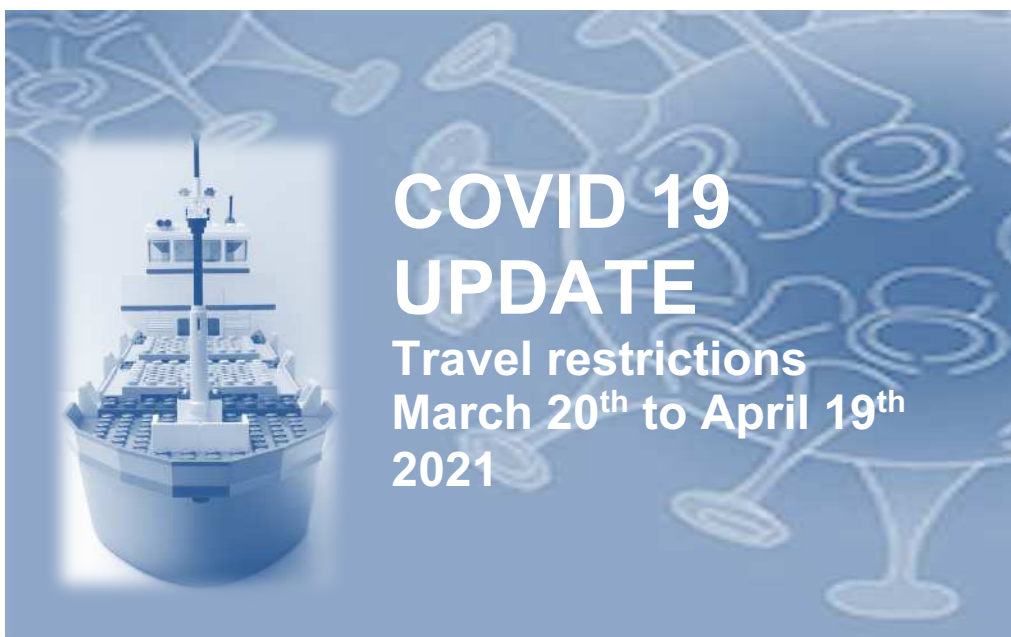


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COVID 19 UPDATE

Travel restrictions
March 20th to April 19th
2021


COVID 19 latest developments Philippines

The number of cases of COVID 19 and its variants is rising rapidly in the Philippines and especially in the capital Manila. Yesterday following medical deviations of vessels to Manila it is becoming a challenge to disembark ill seafarers with COVID 19. We have been informed by all hospitals in Manila that they are at capacity and no more COVID 19 cases can be accepted. In order to accommodate the current ill crew we had to send them by ambulance to a hospital in Subic a two hour drive from Manila. Any seafarer who has died of COVID 19 the Bureau Of Quarantine (BOQ) will allow the body to be landed but no autopsy will be conducted and the body will be cremated.

Regulations are changing quickly; the CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD released this advisory which will seriously affect repatriations despite seafarers being in the exemption list for travel restrictions (see below);



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD



ADVISORY

RE: REDUCED INTERNATIONAL INBOUND PASSENGER CAPACITY AT THE NINYO AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (NAIA)

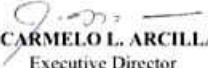
Please be advised that the international inbound arrivals at the Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) shall be limited to a maximum of 1,500 passengers per day beginning 0000 UTC of 18 March 2021 until 2359 UTC of 18 April 2021.

Airlines are also further advised to comply with the directives of the Bureau of Immigration on the kind of essential inbound travelers that will be allowed entry into the Philippines.

Airlines operating in NAIA that will exceed the allowed capacity will be meted with the appropriate penalty pursuant to Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2021-01 dated 08 January 2021, issued by the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), and the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB).

Please be guided accordingly.

15 March 2021
Pasay City, Philippines



CARMELO L. ARCILLA
Executive Director




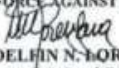


The Philippine government has temporarily suspended the entry of foreign nationals and returning Filipinos who are not overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) amid the rising cases of COVID-19 in the country. In a memorandum circular dated Tuesday, March 16, the National Task Force Against COVID-19 (NTF) directed "all concerned agencies" to implement the travel restrictions from March 20 to April 19.

The following are exempted from the ban:

- Holders of 9(c) visas **** (see PPI note)**
- Medical repatriation and their escort/s duly endorsed by the Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers (DFA-OUMWA) or the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
- Distressed returning overseas Filipinos duly endorsed by the DFA-OUMWA
- Emergency, humanitarian, and other analogous cases approved by the NTF COVID-19

**** PPI Note**

A foreigner who is a seafarer traveling to the **Philippines** to join a vessel docked at the port in the country, can obtain **Philippines Seaman Visa- category 9C**.

 <p style="text-align: center;">REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES NATIONAL TASK FORCE AGAINST COVID-19</p> <p>MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 5, s. 2021</p> <p>TO : ALL CONCERNED MEMBER AGENCIES OF THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE AGAINST COVID 19</p> <p>FROM :  SEC. DELWIN N. LORENZANA Secretary of National Defense Chairperson of the National Task Force Against COVID -19</p> <p>SUBJECT : TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF TRAVEL INTO THE PHILIPPINES OF FOREIGNERS AND RETURNING OVERSEAS FILIPINOS (ROFs) WHO ARE NON-OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (NON - OFWs)</p> <p>DATE : 16 MARCH 2021</p> <hr/> <p>A. On 15 March 2021, the Philippines recorded 5,404 new COVID positive cases, which is the highest report of positive cases in the last 6 months.</p> <p>B. This significant rise in cases since the start of the year is highly likely to be attributed to increased transmission due to noncompliance to the minimum public health standards, especially during gatherings, increased mobility of people, delays in detection and isolation of infected patients, and the entry of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern having potential increased transmissibility.</p> <p>C. According to the press release of the Department of Health (DOH) dated last 13 March 2021, the sustained biosurveillance efforts of the University of the Philippines - Philippine Genome Center (UP-PGC), the UP National Institutes of Health (UP-NIH), and the DOH, have confirmed additional cases of the variants of concern. There were 59 new cases positive for the B.1.1.7 variant (UK variant), 32 additional cases positive for the B.1.351 variant (South Africa variant), and one (1) case positive for the P.1 variant (Brazilian variant).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Among the additional fifty-nine (59) B.1.1.7 variant cases, 30 are local cases, 18 are Returning Overseas Filipinos (ROFs), and 11 are currently being verified whether local or imported. This brought the total number of B.1.1.7 cases in the country to 177. 2. Among the thirty-two (32) B.1.351 variant cases, 21 are local cases, 1 is an ROF, and 10 are still being verified as to their location, bringing the total number of B.1.351 cases in the country to 50. 3. The one (1) case found with the P.1 variant is a Returning Overseas Filipino (ROF) from Brazil. <p>D. In light of efforts to prevent the entry of SARS-CoV-2 variants from other countries and the further rise of cases, all concerned agencies are hereby directed to limit the number of inbound international passengers/arrivals to only One Thousand Five Hundred (1,500) a day and to temporarily suspend the entry of Foreign Nationals and Returning Overseas Filipinos who are non-OFWs beginning 0001H of 20th March 2021 until 19th April 2021, except the following:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holders of 9(c) visas; 2. Medical repatriation and their escort/s duly endorsed by the Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (DFA-OUMWA) or the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA); 3. Distressed ROFs duly endorsed by the Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (DFA-OUMWA); 4. Emergency, humanitarian, and other analogous cases approved by the NTF COVID-19. <p>E. This directive shall be given the appropriate and widest publicity by all concerned agencies.</p> <p>FOR GUIDANCE AND APPROPRIATE ACTION.</p> <div style="text-align: right;">   DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE DNL-211858 </div>
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We are trying to obtain a clear copy

The situation in the Philippines is developing rapidly and we shall keep you informed.

If you require a direct update please email;

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