

CORRESPONDENT'S ADVICE

PHILIPPINES

04 AUG 2021

Coronavirus, COVID-19

The following information was received from our correspondent on 4 August:

QUOTE

Please find attached ALON update regarding current situation in regards to COVID 19 crew repatriation.

UNQUOTE

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DISCLAIMER

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.

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2021
4th August

ALON

Ocean Wave

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 Delta Variant and
Manila to be placed back into strict ECQ



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COVID-19



ECQ strict lockdown
6th to 20th August
2021



Philippines, Manila and other areas to go into strict Enhanced Community Quarantine 6th to 20th August 2021

Due to the increase of the Delta variant of COVID then the Philippine IATF (Inter Agency Task Force) has elevated Manila back to ECQ. Below is an update how this will affect seafarers and the courts;

Crew Changes in Manila and other hubs

Upon checking with the BOQ (Bureau Of Quarantine), we are informed crew change in the region is still allowed and other crew change hubs in the country. It is expected the BOQ and other concerned port authorities will be more strict in implementing the health and safety protocols. The challenges that may be encountered are limited flights /cancellation of flights and travel restrictions as well as stringent quarantine protocols to be implemented by LGUs (Local Government Units) of the different provinces where the crew change hubs (other than Manila port) are located.

The vessels coming from or have rendered port call/s in the following countries: India, Oman, UAE, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Nepal, within (or for the last) 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, are temporarily restricted from disembarking their seafarers. For medical evacuation, this is subject to BOQ's approval. Another challenge here is finding a hospital that can accommodate the seafarers who are suspected to be suffering from delta variant covid 19 (hospitals would normally ask first if the patient came to one of the flagged countries) as most of private hospitals recently said that they are still not prepared /full equipped to accommodate patients suffering from said covid variant.

In regards to Legal cases the following was released by the NLRC yesterday, copy attached:



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
**NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS
COMMISSION**
Quezon City



NLRC COVID-19 ADVISORY NO. 14 02 August 2021

For NLRC Offices/Regional Arbitration Branches located in areas which have been placed under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 130-A, Series of 2021 and in accordance with the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended, the following guidelines on work arrangements shall be observed from August 8 to August 20, 2021:

The guidelines set forth in **NLRC COVID-19 ADVISORY NO. 8** (01 May 2020) are hereby reiterated/amended accordingly:

A. FOR REGIONAL ARBITRATION BRANCHES (RABs)/SUB-RABs IN AREAS UNDER ECQ

1. Work in all units and Offices of the Labor Arbiters shall be suspended during the period of Enhanced Community Quarantine.
2. For walk-in settlement, parties are advised to submit their notarized Compromise Agreement and/or Quitclaims, Release and Waiver upon resumption of regular operations. Submission shall be made to the Office of the Executive Labor Arbiter for raffling thru the RAB's Records and Docket Unit.
3. The filing of appeals and pleadings is suspended and shall resume on the first business day after the declaration of General Community Quarantine (GCQ).
4. All SENA conciliation and mediation conferences via videoconferencing, if any, scheduled during the quarantine period are suspended and shall be rescheduled by the handling SENA Con-Med upon resumption of regular operation.

5. All mandatory conciliation and mediation conferences via videoconferencing scheduled during the quarantine period are suspended and to be rescheduled by the handling Labor Arbiter upon resumption of regular operations.

6. Work from home shall be implemented. Labor Arbiters shall continue to receive cases and prepare orders in their respective residences during the quarantine period. The said decisions and order shall be signed, promulgated, released and mailed within seven (7) calendar days from resumption of work. The minimum level of performance shall still be applied with respect to decisions on the merits.

B. COMMISSION PROPER/DIVISION LEVEL IN AREAS UNDER ECQ

1. Work at the Commission Proper/Division Level shall be suspended during the period of ECQ.
2. The filing of Motions for Reconsideration (MR) and Petitions for Extraordinary Remedies (ER) is suspended and shall resume on the first business day after the declaration of General Community Quarantine (GCQ). It is recommended that the applicable law, jurisprudence, and rule on suspension of the running of the reglementary period is to be considered in resolving the timeliness of the filing of the Motion for Reconsideration and Petition for Extraordinary Remedies.
3. Considering that the filing of appeals is suspended, it is recommended that the applicable law, jurisprudence, and rule on suspension of the running of the reglementary period is to be considered in resolving the timeliness of the filing of the appeals.
4. Work from home shall be implemented. Presiding/Commissioners, assisted by their respective Reviewers/Commission Attorneys shall continue working on the draft recommendation of decisions/resolutions in their respective residences during the quarantine period. Routing of the recommendation to the other Commissioners in their Division for their comment and/or observation will start upon resumption of regular operations.


GERARDO C. NOGRALES
Chairman

In view of the above current COVID-19 situation and the government's declaration to place the National Capital Region on Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) again, our Company has adopted certain measures to safeguard the welfare of our clients, at the same time ensuring that we are committed in performing our role continuously as a local P&I correspondent.

ECQ dictates only one person allowed out per household for essentials only. All offices are closed except for essential workers. Curfew is imposed from 8:00 pm. ECQ will currently continue until 20 August 2021, Friday. Rest assured that, in spite of lockdown restrictions, Pandiman will continue to operate working on site from 08:00 to 17:00 Monday to 08:00 am to 12:00 Saturday.

Our Management Team will monitor their respective Divisions' matters. In case of emergency or any urgent concerns, you may contact the following who also have direct access to our company e-mails:

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While we may expect delays in view of unforeseen circumstances, please be assured that we are doing the necessary and that this measure will not affect our daily operations. Our hearts are with the community throughout this distressing time.

For any further questions please contact

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or
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Captain Andrew Malpass – MBE MM
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