



Republic of the Philippines  
NATIONAL PRIVACY COMMISSION

## ADVISORY

FOR : ALL PARTIES WITH PENDING HEARINGS WITH THE NPC  
SUBJECT : **SUSPENSION OF HEARINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**  
DATE : 12 March 2020

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On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (CoViD-19) a pandemic as health authorities around the globe continue to scramble to contain the virus. CoViD-19, causing respiratory illness, has spread to at least 114 countries and territories in six continents, infecting more than 118,000 people and killing more than 4,200.<sup>1</sup>

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, by virtue of Proclamation No. 922 dated 8 March 2020, declared a state of public health emergency capacitating government agencies and local government units to immediately act to prevent loss of life, utilize appropriate resources to implement urgent and critical measures to contain or prevent the spread of CoViD-19, mitigate its effects and impact to the community, and prevent serious disruption of the functioning of the government and the community.

In its Interim Guidelines on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease Response in the Workplace, the Department of Health advises everyone to keep a distance, whenever possible, of at least three feet or one meter away from other people to reduce the possibility of person-to-person transmission. This distance should be observed even with apparently healthy persons without symptoms.<sup>2</sup> The Secretary of Health also advises the public to practice personal preventive measures like avoiding visiting public places and/or attending mass gatherings.<sup>3</sup>

Considering the foregoing, the National Privacy Commission (NPC) cancels until further notice all settings for discovery conferences, summary hearings, and mediation proceedings previously scheduled before the Complaints and Investigation Division and Legal Division for the safety and protection of the public at large. It is emphasized that only the hearings are suspended and that all cases pending before the NPC are neither terminated or dismissed. Notice for the resetting of both proceedings shall be sent to the parties through mail and/or e-mail.

The public is also highly advised to temporarily course all inquiries, breach notifications, complaints, and other forms of correspondence through our phone trunkline, e-mail, or official social media accounts.

For your information and guidance.

(sgd.)

**GLEND A LEAH A. CARINGAL**  
Officer-in-Charge, Legal and Enforcement Office

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2020/03/covid-19-charts-maps-200310163714493.html> (Last accessed 12 March 2020).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/health-update/DC2020-0039-Reiteration-of-DM2020-056-Interim-Guidelines-on-2019-nCoV-ARD-Response-in-the-Workplace.pdf> (Last accessed 12 March 2020).

<sup>3</sup> DOH reports 4+9 New CoViD-19 Cases; Total Now 33. 10 March 2022. [doh.gov.ph/doh-press-release/doh-reports-11-new-covid-19-cases](https://doh.gov.ph/doh-press-release/doh-reports-11-new-covid-19-cases) (Last accessed 12 March 2020).