



April 29, 2020

**MEMORANDUM NO. 2020-021**

**TO : All Electric Cooperatives**

**SUBJECT : Second Extension of Enhanced Community Quarantine Until May 15, 2020, Transition to General Community Quarantine, and Adoption of Minimum Health Standards**

In view of the approval by the President of the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) to extend the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in the National Capital Region (NCR), Region III (Central Luzon), Region IV-A (Calabarzon) and ten (10) other "high-risk" areas until 15 May 2020, it is hereby declared that all existing advisories, rules and directives previously issued under the ECQ shall remain in full force during this period. Under this second extension, stringent quarantine measures shall remain in effect, public transport systems remain suspended, and only essential businesses and services are allowed to operate, among others.

Upon the other hand, those that have been declared as "moderate-risk" or "low-risk" areas shall be placed under a less stringent General Community Quarantine (GCQ) starting May 1, 2020. Based on the IATF resolution, those under GCQ, may continue to work in phases, people may be allowed to go out of their homes but only to buy basic necessities, while those under 21 years of age, senior citizens, and high-risk persons should remain at home. Also, public transport is allowed but in a reduced capacity, non-leisure stores in shopping malls may partially open subject to minimum health standards and physical distancing while airports and seaports may operate to allow the unhampered movement of goods.

An advance notice has been sent out by the IATF for Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases on 28 April 2010 that, among the businesses that may be re-opened in areas under ECQ and GCQ are power, energy and electricity. However, since the entire country is still under a national state of calamity as declared under Proclamation Decree No. 929, it is important that an EC should be able to distinguish the difference of an ECQ from a GCQ, which are as follows;

**Enhanced Community Quarantine**

- Stringent quarantine measures until May 15, 2020
- Public transportation systems are suspended
- Only essential businesses are allowed to operate
- Subject to further evaluation before transitioning to GCQ

**General Community Quarantine**

- Relaxed quarantine measure starting May 1, 2020
- Public transport are allowed but in reduced capacity
- 50-100% reopening of select establishments subject to minimum health standards
- If no further deterioration, GCQ will be relaxed

It must be understood however, that in both states (ECQ and GCQ), WEARING OF FACE MASKS will always be part of protocol against COVID-19 as well as other measures such as regular hand washing, covering of nose and mouth when sneezing, and physical distancing will remain in effect, as instructed by the DOH.

Corollary to this, the IATF-EID issued Resolution No. 28 which mandates that minimum public health standards must be specified by the Department of Health (DOH) and adhered to by all sectors, which standards shall serve as a guide in institutionalizing key non-pharmaceutical interventions to combat COVID-19. The DOH for its part, issued Administrative Order (AO) No. 2020-0015 dated April 27, 2020 on the subject, "Guidelines on the Risk-Based Public Health Standards for COVID-19 Mitigation." The general guidelines provides that all policies, investments, and actions shall ensure that COVID-19 mitigation objectives are achieved using the following strategies:

1. **Increase physical and mental resilience** such as: ensure access to basic needs of individuals, including food, water, shelter and sanitation; encourage physical activity; discourage smoking and drinking of alcoholic beverages; protect the mental health of individuals; promote basic respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette; provide financial and healthcare support for workforce who contracted COVID-19 through transmission at work.
2. **Reduce transmission** such as: encourage frequent hand washing with soap and water and discourage the touching of the eyes, nose and mouth through information and education campaigns; encourage symptomatic individuals to stay at home; ensure access to basic hygiene facilities; clean and disinfect the environment regularly, every two hours for high touch areas such as toilets, door knobs, switches, and at least once every day for workstations and other surfaces.
3. **Reduce contact** such as: implement strict distancing at all times; reduce movement within and across areas and settings; restrict unnecessary mass gatherings; limit non-essential travel and activities; install architectural or engineering interventions as may be deemed appropriate; implement temporary closure or suspension of service in high-risk areas or establishments, as necessary.
4. **Reduce duration of infection** such as identify symptomatic individuals and immediately isolate, such as through the use of temperature scanning, symptom self-monitoring, and voluntary disclosure; coordinate symptomatic individuals through appropriate health system entry points such as primary care facilities or teleconsulting platforms; and trace and quarantine close contacts of confirmed individuals consistent with DOH guidelines.

In this regard, Electric Cooperatives (ECs) are enjoined to strictly observe the directives unique to the category under which they fall, whether ECQ or GCQ. In addition, ECs are advised to adopt and implement their own advisories on health

standards to be observed in their respective workplaces following the minimum guidelines above set by the DOH and the DOE.

Electric Cooperatives, whatever state of quarantine its franchise area is in, must be guided by Labor Advisory Nos. 9 and 11 both Series of 2020 in conducting and running its operations.

For immediate compliance and guidance.



**EDGARDO R. MASONGSONG**

Administrator

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