



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 03

Series of 2020

CREATING THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) FOR THE NEW EMERGING AND RE-EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, Section 17(b)(3)(iv) of the Local Government Code of 1991 provides that the province shall exercise such other powers and discharge such other functions and responsibilities as are necessary, appropriate, or incidental to efficient and effective provision of health services which include hospitals and other tertiary health services;

WHEREAS, the emergence of the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infections from Wuhan City, Hubei province in China have been acknowledged by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the global community to cause potential public health emergencies of international concern;

WHEREAS, there are threats that this disease, and other bacterial, viral and parasitic infections may contribute to significant morbidity and mortality caused by infectious diseases in the country;

WHEREAS, the incidence of these diseases persist due to increased globalization and mobility of travelers and products, and thus, threatens the lives and safety of the Boholano community; and

WHEREAS, in order to arrest the emergence and proliferation of these infectious diseases in the Province of Bohol, and to prevent their spread that may result in local outbreak leading to an epidemic, there is a need for the creation of a Technical Working Group (TWG) with multi-sectoral collaboration to ensure preparedness and also efficient proactive local government response in the assessment, monitoring, containment, control, and prevention of the spread of any potential epidemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RENE LOPEZ RELAMPAGOS, Acting Governor of the Province of Bohol, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Creation and Composition of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on New Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases. – There is hereby created in the Province of Bohol a Technical Working Group (TWG) on New Emerging Infectious Diseases (NEID), to be composed of representatives from the following multi-sectoral offices:

- Department of Health; - (Lead Office/Chairperson)
- Provincial Health Office; - (Co-Chairperson)
- Office of the Governor;
- SP Committee on Health and Public Sanitation;
- Regional Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (RESU);
- Provincial Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (PESU);
- Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (PDRRMO);
- Bureau of Quarantine;
- Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP);

- Philippine Ports Authority (PPA);
- Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital;
- Don Emilio Del Valle Memorial Hospital (Ubay);
- Philippine Hospital Association – Bohol Chapter;
- Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines- Bohol Chapter
- Tagbilaran City Health Office
- Bohol Tourism Office
- Bohol Association of Hotels, Resorts and Restaurants (BAHRR);
- Philippine National Police; and
- Representative from the Bohol Tri-Media;

SECTION 2. Functions. – The TWG on NEID shall have the following functions:

- a) Establish a system to identify, screen, and assist persons suspected or confirmed to be infected with a NEID;
- b) In coordination with the Department of Health, implement measures to prevent and/or minimize the entry of suspected or confirmed patients with NEID into the province which should include rigid screening and identification of suspected NEID carriers/patients, and the institutionalization of a surveillance, alert, and quarantine system in all ports of entry;
- c) Prevent and/or minimize the local spread of NEID in the province through the establishment or reinforcement of a system in screening possible patients infected with NEID, contact tracing, identification of the mode of exposure to the virus, and implementation of effective quarantine and proper isolation procedures;
- d) Prevent and/or minimize morbidity and mortality through effective clinical management by capacitating healthcare facilities, government and private medical practitioners, healthcare workers, and public safety enforcers;
- e) Educate the public on the NEID and its prevention, control and management to promote positive health behaviors, and address public fear and anxiety through the conduct of a province-wide NEID information and awareness campaign;
- f) Adopt measures to strengthen the Emerging and Re-Emerging Infectious Diseases Program of the DOH or its equivalent in other local health units;
- g) Notify the DOH of the NEID cases in the province and its assessment of the situation;
- h) Submit to the DILG/DOH regular status reports in the monitoring of NEID;
- i) Formulate, develop, implement, and oversee the NEID Preparedness Manual for the prevention and control of NEID; and
- j) Perform such other functions and activities as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Order.

SECTION 3. Development of NEID Preparedness Manual. – A comprehensive and sustainable NEID Preparedness Manual shall be formulated and developed, following World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, in order to address local government response and protocol in managing EID cases. The manual shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a) Quarantine and immediate containment of EID within ports of entry;
- b) Epidemiological investigation and contact tracing;
- c) Treatment of infected cases and containment of affected areas;
- d) Formulation of a risk communication plan and EID materials for the general public; and
- e) Respective responsibilities of government agencies/instrumentalities.

SECTION 4. Funding. – The member-agencies of the TWG are authorized to charge against their current appropriations such funds as may be necessary for the implementation of this Order. Subsequent funding requirements shall be incorporated in the annual budget proposals of the respective member – agencies through the Annual Appropriations Ordinance. Additional funds and possible fund sources as may be necessary for the implementation of this Order shall be identified and provided for by the Office of the Governor in coordination with the Provincial Budget and Development Office (PBMO).

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. – Should any provision of this Order be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions unaffected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. – All orders, proclamations, rules, regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

DONE, in the City of Tagbilaran, this 24th day of January in the Year of the Lord, 2020.

RENE LOPEZ RELAMPAGOS
Acting Governor