



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20
Series of 2020

AN ORDER INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONDUCT OF RISK-BASED TESTING FOR COVID-19 ACROSS ALL VULNERABLE GROUPS AND AT RISK POPULATION IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Executive Order No. 112 imposing an enhanced community quarantine in high-risk areas and a general community quarantine in other parts of the country and adopting the omnibus guidelines of the national task force on COVID 19;

WHEREAS, despite Davao Oriental being placed under General Community Quarantine, there is still an increasing trend in the number of cases in Davao Region;

WHEREAS, Department of Health issued Memorandum Circular No. 2020-0184 otherwise known as Revised Interim Guidelines on Risk Testing;

WHEREAS, given that the supply of RT PCR kits is limited and that the Southern Philippines Medical Center is the only subnational laboratory in Region 11, there is a need to prioritize high-risk individuals and vulnerable groups in COVID-19 testing;

WHEREAS, as part of the protocol of the OPLAN SUNDU NLD Cares initiative implemented by the provincial government, rescued stranded residents and overseas Filipino workers outside the province must be subjected to COVID-19 test;

WHEREAS, the provincial, city and municipal task forces on COVID 19 have identified groups of individuals who pose the highest risk in contracting COVID 19 infection;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Provincial Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, **I, NELSON L. DAYANGHIRANG**, do hereby order to institutionalize the conduct of risk based testing across all city and municipalities of the province.

Section 1. Risk Based Testing for High risk and vulnerable population. Risk-based testing shall be conducted for all individuals who belong to the high risk/ vulnerable population based on the following prioritization:

- 1.1 Group A - COVID suspects – These are individuals with signs and symptoms such as cough, fever, colds, sore throat and difficulty of breathing and with travel history to areas with community transmission and/or exposure to a confirmed COVID 19 case;
- 1.2 Group B - Individuals who have travel and/or exposure history who are sixty (60) years old and above, high risk pregnant patients and those with comorbidities;
- 1.3 Group C - Health workers manning the COVID 19 triage, emergency room personnel, medical officers of hospitals and other health facilities, surveillance officers, healthcare personnel who will do the swab testing,



transport officer of COVID 19 ambulance/vehicles and others as may be identified by the Provincial Health Office and Provincial Task Force.

- 1.4 Group D – Oplan sundo Recipients. This includes all individuals rescued through the government initiated Oplan sundo Program, regardless of their classification;
- 1.5 Group E - Skeleton workforce employees and other individuals who come from areas with community transmission who frequently travel in and out of the province;

Section 2. Procedures of Risk Based Testing. The following guidelines shall apply in the conduct of risk based testing:

- 2.1 The city/municipal surveillance unit shall identify individuals who shall identify and classify individuals for risk testing prioritization. They will subsequently recommend to the provincial task force the list of these individuals and classification.;
- 2.2 The city/municipal logs the request for RT-PCR test kits at the provincial task force if there is no availability of such kits at their level;
- 2.3 The provincial task force issues RT PCR kits;
- 2.4 The city/municipal trained personnel performs swab tests on these individuals based on the hierarchy of order hereto presented;
- 2.5 The city/municipal task force tags, records and submits the swab sample collected to DOH Regional Epidemiologic Surveillance Unit within 24 hours after swabbing. Proper protocol on specimen transport must be observed at all times;
- 2.6 The city/municipal task force shall submit a utilization report to the Provincial task force relative to the use of swab kits and PPEs if these are supplied by the PLGU, otherwise, they may keep a utilization report at their respective Emergency Operation Centers;
- 2.7 While awaiting for their RT-PCR results, all individuals that were subjected to swab testing shall be isolated accordingly at their designated quarantine facilities. Only when the RT PCR yields a negative result can they be discharged from their respective quarantine facilities.
- 2.8 Only trained health personnel is allowed to perform swabbing and testing in identified individuals;
- 2.9 A consent form must first be signed prior to testing. Refusal of an individual to be tested may warrant refusal of entry to the province.



Section 3. Shared Responsibility and Collaborative Effort of the Provincial and City/Municipal LGUs. While the provincial government leads in the acquisition of 10,000 testing kits for this purpose as well as the procurement of PPEs for the frontliners who will conduct the swab testing, all C/MLGUs are enjoined to acquire swab test kits and PPEs chargeable against their respective Bayanihan grants.

Section 4. Separability Clause. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Order shall be found unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. Previous issuances or parts thereof in conflict with or inconsistent to the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Effectivity Clause. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done on the 6th day of May 2020 in Mati City, Davao Oriental, Philippines.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "NELSON L. DAYANGHIRANG".

NELSON L. DAYANGHIRANG
Governor/Chairperson, PTF-COVID 19