



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
**BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY**  
**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

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## MEMORANDUM

TO : Regional Directors of the Jail Bureau

ATTN : Provincial Jail Administrator  
Jail Wardens  
BJMPRO and Jail COVID-19 Task Force

SUBJECT : **BJMP COVID-19 ADVISORY # 19 : SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDELINES ON THE COMMITMENT OF PDL DURING JAIL LOCKDOWN AND REITERATION OF PERTINENT PROTOCOLS RELATIVE HEREOF**

DATE : APR 15 2020

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### I. REFERENCES:

1. Administrative Circular No. 33 – 2020 re: Online Filing of Complaint or Information and Posting of Bail Due to the Rising Cases of COVID-19 Infection, dated March 31, 2020;
2. BJMP COVID-19 Advisory #5: *Implementation of Absolute Lockdown in all Jail Facilities and Supplemental Guidelines*, dated March 19, 2020;
3. Presidential Proclamation No. 929 s. 2020, dated March 16, 2020;
4. BJMP COVID-19 Advisory #1 re: *Commitment of PDL from PNP and other Agencies' Lock up Cells or Detention Units*, dated March 14, 2020;
5. Presidential Proclamation No. 922 s. 2020, dated March 8, 2020;
6. BJMP Comprehensive Operations Manual, 2015 Edition; and
7. Republic Act No. 6975.

### II. ISSUES, CONCERNS AND IMPLICATIONS:

1. The continued anti-criminality operations of the government have been necessary to maintain peace and order during the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). As such, arrests of persons for violation of laws, including ECQ-related regulations, have resulted in the issuance of commitment orders for their detention in jails.
2. In the commitment process, several documents are required. Among them is a medical certificate taken within 24 hours prior to admission, which is essential to assess a PDL's actual physical condition, determine presence of injuries sustained by him/her (PDL) after the conduct of medical examination or those not diagnosed prior to commitment in jail, and to detect any critical health condition/s requiring immediate measures.
3. Under normal circumstances, an arrested person should be brought to a hospital or clinic for medical examination and issuance of medical certificate. This may not be safe at the moment because of the possibility of contracting diseases such as the COVID-19.

### III. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. COVID-19 Advisory #1 re: *Commitment of PDL from PNP and other Agencies' Lock up Cells or Detention Units* is hereby reiterated. Coordination with the Court and other law enforcement agencies must be initiated to defer the commitment of new PDL to BJMP jails, until such time that the absolute lockdown in all jail facilities has been lifted.
2. If the commitment cannot be deferred:
  - a. The PDL must be accepted if necessary documents, especially Commitment Order, are present. A medical certificate issued by a private physician would suffice during the period that our country is under the state of calamity.
  - b. In the absence of any medical certificate, the PDL, during the said period, must be accepted but a written statement by the newly committed PDL attested by the local Chief of Police or any other authorized officer of other law enforcement agencies indicating his/her physical condition shall be submitted along with the other documents for commitment.
  - c. Newly committed PDL must be put in an isolation area for quarantine purposes until a BJMP Physician or Jail Nurse as the case may be, can verify his/her actual medical/health condition. An attestation by the former as to the health condition of newly committed PDL must be issued. Precautionary measures provided in BJMP COVID-19 Advisory #2 re: *Provision of Initial Screening Area in Jail Facility should be strictly implemented.*
  - d. Upon commitment, a PDL must be thoroughly interviewed and examined by the duty health personnel to ascertain his/her actual physical condition. Inquiry as to medical history and related data of PDL shall likewise be conducted. For this purpose, the following must be determined by the duty health personnel:
    - c.1. Travel history within 14-21 days prior to arrest, particularly in places with confirmed local transmission of COVID-19;
    - c.2. Place of residence;
    - c.3. Presence of COVID-19 symptoms, including body temperature, upon commitment; and
    - c.4. Other matters as may be necessary.
3. For guidance.

**BY AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF, BJMP:**



**MA. ANNIE A ESPINOSA**  
Jail Senior Superintendent  
Director for Operations  
Co-Chairperson  
BJMP National COVID-19 Task Force