



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
Provincial Jail Administrators
Wardens

ATTN : Regional and Jail COVID-19 Task Forces

SUBJECT : **BJMP COVID-19 ADVISORY # 43: USE OF RAPID ANTIBODY TEST**

DATE : 02 SEP 2020

1. References:

- a. DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-0220 re: Interim Guidelines on the Return- to-Work dated May 11, 2020;
- b. DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-0258 re: Updated Interim Guidelines on Expanded Testing for COVID-19 dated May 29, 2020;
- c. DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-0258-A re: Amendment to DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-0258 re: Updated Interim Guidelines on Expanded Testing for COVID-19 dated July 6, 2020;
- d. Unified (Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Philippine College of Chest Physicians, Philippine College of Physicians, Philippine Rheumatology Association and Philippine College of Hematology and Transfusion Medicine) Interim Guidance on the Critical Management of Adult Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Infection (Version 3.1) dated July 20, 2020; and
- e. BJMP COVID-19 Advisory #38: Guidelines in Relation to IATF-EID Resolution No. 63 and 64 dated August 18, 2020.


2. The BJMP adheres to IATF-EID resolutions and follows the DOH guidelines stressing that rapid antibody testing is not recommended as a standalone test for the diagnosis of COVID-19 and that RT-PCR (nasopharyngeal & oropharyngeal swab) test remains to be the gold standard confirmatory test of COVID-19. In this regard, rapid antibody test results will no longer be accepted as screening test more so as basis for definitive diagnosis.

3. In the absence of RT-PCR test, observance of 21-day strict home/facility quarantine is advised prior to calibrated Changing of Guards (COG) as stated in BJMP COVID-19 Advisory #38. Those Personnel who shall not manifest any COVID-19 related symptoms within the 21-day quarantine period shall secure a medical clearance/certificate from their medical personnel or local health unit prior to COG.

4. All personnel who will report for duty or return-to-work must abide strictly by the guidance stated in the BJMP COVID-19 Advisory #38 without exemption.

5. For information and strict compliance.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF, BJMP:


ARTHUR C LORENZO, MD
Jail Chief Superintendent
Director for Health Service
Chairperson
BJMP National COVID-19 Task Force