



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 : BJMPRO and Jail COVID-19 Task Forces

SUBJECT : **BJMP COVID-19 ADVISORY #18:**
PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES IN THE USE OF DISINFECTANTS

DATE : APR 22 2020

I. REFERENCES:

1. DOH and WHO Advisories re: *Call For All Agencies Concerned to Avoid Spraying of Disinfectant to People as Preventive Measure Against COVID-19*, dated March 31, 2020;
2. DOH Department Circular No. 2020-0172 re: *Guidance on Misting or Spraying for COVID-19*, dated April 9, 2020;
3. National Poison Management and Control Center (NPMCC), University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) re: *Immediate Stoppage of Chlorine Solutions to Individuals*;
4. Memorandum re: *Activation of the BJMP COVID-19 Task Force and Supplemental Guidelines*, dated March 13, 2020; and
5. *BJMP OPLAN on the 2019 Novel Corona Virus*, dated March 8, 2020;

II. ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND IMPLICATIONS:

1. The Department of Health (DOH) and the National Poison Management and Control Center (NPMCC) cited that spraying or misting of individuals or groups is not recommended due to health and safety concerns. The same was deemed physically and psychologically harmful, and does not limit the spread of COVID-19.

2. Even if a person is infected with COVID-19, spraying over person infected with COVID-19 does not kill the virus inside of his/her body. Further, it worsen the clinical condition of the individual.

3. Studies reveal that spraying of diluted chlorine on a person can lead to irritation of the eyes and skin, bronchospasm (difficulty of breathing due to inhalation), and potential gastrointestinal effects such as nausea and vomiting.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Regional Offices and jail units are directed to refrain from spraying or misting chemical disinfectants or detergents to individuals or groups, instead, soaking objects completely or disinfecting surfaces directly is highly recommended to kill the virus.

2. Intensify and improve the following precautionary measures in preventing the transmission of COVID-19:

- a. Provide common access to hand hygiene stations and make its use obligatory, especially in commissary/kitchen and toilet/comfort room.

- b. Hand hygiene stations on entering and leaving any facility must also be established with adequate soap, water and paper towels.
 - c. Observe proper procedures of disinfection/decontamination for raw foods and other supplies that are necessary to be sanitized.
 - d. Strictly follow the procedures on the use of disinfectants such as wearing of gloves and avoid its contact on eyes, mouth and skin.
 - e. Ensure that improvised disinfectants are properly labeled.
 - f. Observe physical distancing, proper hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.
3. Please be guided accordingly.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE CHIEF, BJMP:



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