



Republic of the Philippines  
**PROVINCE OF ISABELA**  
City of Ilagan

## *Office of the Governor*

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 01**

Series of 2021

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE DETAILED PROTOCOLS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN EXISTING PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS IN PREPERATION FOR THE POSSIBLE ENTRY AND TRANSMISSION OF THE NEW COVID-19 STRAIN IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA.**

**WHEREAS**, Section 15 Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health has confirmed the entry of the new strain of SARS-COV-2 named B.1.1.7 and other still unnamed mutations thereby prompting the national government to direct LGUs to adopt additional measures to be observed to limit the spread of the new variant;

**WHEREAS**, the DILG has issued an unnumbered Memorandum dated January 07, 2021 directing all LGUs to further strengthen existing public health interventions including the imposition of curfews and expanded travel restrictions;

**WHEREAS**, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela has passed SP Resolution No. 2021-02-06 series of 2021, calling for the strict adherence to the enhanced minimum health protocols and particularly imposing a ban on house-to-house bet collection and requiring instead that all betting and bet collection for lotteries conducted by the PCSO be done at the PCSO booths or official betting stations;

**WHEREAS**, the provincial government has received numerous reports about the proliferation of illegal gambling operations in the province without any permit from the LGUs and absent a judicial determination of the legality of their operation;

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**WHEREAS**, the Isabela Provincial COVID-19 Task Force is now considering the issuance of a new set of protocols pursuant to the directive of the DILG Memorandum, the new SP Resolution and the January 14, 2021 edition of the IATF-MEID Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, the province of Isabela has already breached the four thousand mark of COVID-19 cases and 59 deaths including a police officer serving in the frontlines and an STL Table Manager;

**WHEREAS**, in view of the above premises and pending the formal issuance by the Isabela Provincial COVID-19 Task Force of an amended protocol, there is an urgent need for the issuance of a detailed guideline to effect the recent directives of the national government and the Sanguniang Panlalawigan;

**NOW THEREFORE, I, RODOLFO T. ALBANO III**, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law as the Governor of the province of Isabela, as the Chairman of the Isabela Provincial COVID-19 Task Force and as the Chairman of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, do hereby issue the following protocols and herewith order the strict implementation of the same, to wit:

**SECTION 1. PROTOCOLS AND GUIDELINES - DETAILED PROTOCOLS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN EXISTING PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS IN PREPERATION FOR THE POSSIBLE ENTRY AND TRANSMISSION OF THE NEW COVID-19 STRAIN IN THE PROVINCE:**

The Province of Isabela is presently under the Modified General Community Quarantine whereby Minimum Public Health Standards, and such other related quarantine procedures and disease prevention and control measures, must be implemented with emphasis on strengthening existing health protocols and interventions in preparation for the transmission of the new COVID-19 strain pursuant to DILG Memorandum dated 07 January 2021.

**A. MOVEMENT OF PERSONS**

1. Pursuant to the regulation of movement of persons under the Omnibus Guidelines on the implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines with amendments as of December 14, 2020, movement of people is limited and house-to-house person traffic is discouraged.

Persons who are below fifteen (15) years old, and those who are sixty five (65) years old and above, pregnant women, and those with immunodeficiency, comorbidity, or other health risks, shall be required to remain in their residences at all times. Provided further that, the said persons may leave their residences under the following circumstances:

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- a.) When indispensable for accessing essential goods and services, and no other person in the household can be designated for such purpose;
  - b.) For work and/or business in allowed establishments, industries and livelihood sectors with proper documentation;
  - c.) For indoor and outdoor non-contact sports and other forms of exercise;
2. Face to face classes on all levels both public and private are still not allowed;
  3. There shall be a curfew from eleven o' clock in the evening (11:00 P.M.) to four o' clock in the morning (4:00 AM) in the entire Province.
  4. All types of face-to-face, house-to-house and in the street bet collections shall not be allowed. Betting and bet collection for lotteries conducted for/by the PCSO must be done at the official PCSO betting stations or outlets/booths, pursuant to the DILG Memorandum dated January 7, 2021 and new IATF-MEID Omnibus Guidelines.

**B. MINIMUM PUBLIC HEALTH STANDARDS IN ESTABLISHMENTS, INDUSTRIES AND LIVELIHOOD SECTORS:**

1. Restaurants, food chains and food stalls, dine-in tables shall be divided by a barrier made of impermeable and transparent material. All establishments, work places and livelihood activities shall follow strict Minimum Public Health Standards. The following shall be strictly followed:
  - a.) No face mask, No face shield- No entry;
  - b.) Health monitoring with thermal scanners and other similar devices, as well as, personal hygiene procedures, like hand washing and/or application of disinfectants, and foot bath shall be performed before entering and leaving the establishment or work place;
  - c.) Without prejudice to the limitations on operational capacity allowed, person density shall be at one (1) person for every two (2) square meters of floor area. Provided that, for restaurants, food chains, food stalls, person density shall be at two (2) persons per table, or one (1) person for every two (2) square meters of floor area, whichever promotes better social distancing. Provided further that, at all times, a distance of at least 2.0 meters between persons shall be observed;
  - d.) In so far as practicable, one-way traffic is enjoined in the movement and flow of staff/workers and customers;
  - e.) Staff/workers shall be provided with face mask, face shield or goggles and gloves;
  - f.) Management shall provide accessible wash areas with soap and disinfectants, and conduct regular disinfecting procedures in the work place; and

- g.) Management shall assign a full time Occupational Safety and Health Officer, who shall ensure that the above Minimum Public Health Standards are followed, and who shall monitor the health condition of the staff/workers and customers.
- h.) Establishments in the tourism sector such as, but not limited to, beach resorts, inland resorts, water parks, amusement parks and ecological parks may be allowed at 50% capacity for local tourist from within the province only;

Provided that, public events and gatherings (parties, receptions and celebrations) shall not be allowed in their social halls, function rooms, cottages and other ancillary facilities. Provided further that, only family gatherings involving immediate members of the family and household members shall be allowed.

For hotels and similar establishments for accommodation, ROFs, LSIs, and other persons who may be required to undergo mandatory facility-based quarantine, shall be given priority accommodation. Provided that, only fifty percent (50%) operational capacity shall be allowed. Provided further that, only those accredited by the Department of Tourism and the DILG, and only upon issuance of a Certificate of Authority to operate, provided further that, public events and gatherings (parties, receptions and celebrations) shall not be allowed.

- i.) Sports facilities and sports venues, such as, but not limited to, gyms, sports clubs and bowling alleys may operate at 50% capacity. Provided that, the operation of arenas, stadiums and similar sports venues that involve large spectator crowds, shall not be allowed;
  - j.) Personal care service providers, such as, but not limited to, barber shops, beauty parlors, facial care, foot spa and salons. Provided that, barbershops and salons shall be allowed to operate at fifty percent (50%) of capacity;
  - l.) Establishments in the entertainment industry, such as, but not limited to cinemas, drive-in cinemas, music venues, bars and clubs, are allowed at 50 % capacity. Provided that, beerhouses and similar establishments whose primary business is serving alcoholic drinks shall not be allowed;
2. Municipal/City public markets shall be open on a daily basis, provided, fifty percent (50%) of the total capacity of foot traffic will be allowed and that wearing of face mask and face shield inside and around (outside perimeter) the municipal/city public market shall be required;
  3. Supermarkets, private wet markets, grocery stores, agri- fishery supply stores, veterinary supply stores, pharmacies, drug stores, and other retail establishments engaged in the business of selling essential goods are strongly encouraged to extend their store operations to a maximum of twelve (12) hours;

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4. For restaurants, fast food chains and food stalls, dine-in service shall be allowed to open at fifty percent (50%) of seating capacity, and a maximum of operating hours up to 10:00 p.m. Pick-up and deliveries are highly encouraged;
5. Shopping centers and malls, Minimum Public Health Standard shall be observed, pursuant to DTI Memorandum Circular No. 20-21, Series of 2020,
6. Public and private construction projects shall be allowed, subject to strict compliance with safety guidelines issued by the Department of Public Works and Highways;
7. Alternative work arrangements may be implemented for persons who are sixty (60) years old and above, pregnant women, and those with immunodeficiency, comorbidities, or other health risks and pregnant women;
8. The operation of cockpits and the conduct of cockfighting activities shall be allowed. Provided that there shall be no gathering of crowds or large number of persons in the area outside and around the cockpit. Provided further that:
  - a.) Strict observance of health and safety protocols provided therein;
  - b.) There shall be no persons inside the “gradas”, stadium and cockpit area aside from the owners of fighting roosters, gaffers (one for each owner) and handlers (limited to 2 person only) and the umpire (sentensyador), NO online or remote betting, and NO live broadcasting/ telecasting of cockfighting; and
  - c.) The Municipalities/City pursuant to their powers under Section 447 paragraph (3.) (v.) and Section 458 paragraph (3.) (v), respectively, of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991, shall have the final decision on whether the operation of licensed cockpits and the conduct of cockfighting activities can proceed in their respective localities.
9. There shall be a prohibition on public events and gatherings involving crowds or large number of persons, such as, but not limited to the following:
  - a.) LGU events and activities, such as, fiesta/socio-cultural activities, festivals, commemorative programs, and assemblies, provided that, LGU events and activities in pursuit of government programs and activities shall be allowed subject to item no. 10 of this guidelines;
  - b.) All activities shall be done in open coliseums/community centers;
  - c.) Conventions, seminars, workshops and general membership meetings;
  - d.) Birthday, anniversary, wedding and baptismal celebrations/receptions except when allowed by LCE in writing;
  - e.) Cultural/art/ entertainment performances and exhibitions;
  - f.) Trade expositions and product promotions;
  - g.) Spectator sports and contact sports activities;
  - h.) Family gatherings involving non-members of the household; and

- i.) Funeral wake public viewing and gambling, and walking funeral processions, provided that, the deceased/urn (in case of cremation, and only in so far as applicable) shall be buried/interred not later than five (5) days from arrival of the casket/urn at the venue of the wake for non- COVID 19 related cases only. Provided further that, the wake may be extended, with the permission of the Municipal/City Mayor, in case of the following pending needs/requirements that cannot be obtained/accomplished within the five (5)- day period:

- (i.) Government regulatory requirements;
- (ii.) Religious rites; and
- (iii.) Burial site.

All COVID-19 related deaths must be interred/buried as soon as possible and not to exceed twenty four (24) hours in the burial site designated by the LGU.

10. LGU events and activities in pursuit of government programs and projects shall be subject to the following:
  - a.) Attendees shall be at fifty percent (50%) of the venue or seating capacity, but in no case shall exceed one hundred (100) persons;
  - b.) Buffet meals and snacks shall not be allowed; and
  - c.) Persons shall be seated two (2) meters apart.
  - d.) Religious congregation shall be allowed; provided that:
    - d.1. Attendees shall only be at fifty percent (50%) of the venue or seating capacity;
    - d.2. Persons shall be seated two (2) meters apart; and
    - d.3. Seats and queue lines shall be marked accordingly for social distancing purposes.
  - e.) In all allowed public events and gatherings, Minimum Public Health Standards, shall be strictly observed, and that there shall be a safety and health protocol officer(s) assigned to ensure compliance.

Participants in public events and gatherings shall at all times avoid close contact, pursuant to DOH i.e. (a.) avoid face-to-face contact within a distance of one (1) meter (or always maintain a distance of 1.5 meters with other persons) for more than fifteen (15) minutes, (b.) avoid physical contact with other persons and unnecessary contact with objects and structures, (c.) Traditional greeting gestures such as hand shaking and “beso-beso” is prohibited.

### C. TRAVEL RESTRICTION PROTOCOLS:

Travelers who have been to the following countries in the past 14 days before scheduled arrival are discouraged to enter the province of Isabela;

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United Kingdom	United States	South Africa	Austria
Switzerland	Italy	Denmark	China
Israel	Hong Kong, SAR	Spain	Luxembourg
Ireland	The Netherlands	Singapore	Oman
Lebanon	Japan	Canada	Pakistan
Germany	Sweden	Australia	Jamaica
France	Iceland	South Korea	
Portugal	India	Finland	
Norway	Jordan	Brazil	

However, ROFs and returning citizen who are residents of the province, shall **be allowed to enter under the following circumstances:**

1. They would take a RT-PCR Test upon arrival or present a RT PCR Negative test result taken within the last forty eight (48) hours;
2. They will undergo another 14-day mandatory quarantine aside from the 14-day requirement of the DOH Bureau of Quarantine on their arrival in the country. ROFs and OFWs will be accommodated for free at a Provincial Government of Isabela- designated stringent quarantine facility. Non- OFWs and eligible non-Filipinos will be assigned a quarantine facility designated by the provincial government subject to availability of accommodation.

In case all provincial quarantine facilities are at full capacity, ROFs and OFWs will be accommodated for free at a stringent quarantine facility designated by their municipal/ city local government unit for their 14-day quarantine.

In case of detection of infection, contract tracing will now expand to third-generation close contacts whereby all identified close contacts must undergo strict facility- based quarantine for fourteen days.

#### **D. BOUNDARY CHECKPOINTS AND CONTROL:**

Inter- municipality/ city boundary checkpoints are to be re- mobilized manned by PNP and members of the local COVID-19 Task Forces.

Provincial Boundary and Border Checkpoints and airport authorities will scrutinize and verify the requirements of the following persons upon entering the province and ensure that the following documents are present or will be denied entry if one of the documents is lacking or deficient;

The road, rail, maritime and aviation sectors of public transportation shall be allowed to operate at such capacity and following the protocols as provided for DOTr both under GCQ and MGCQ situation;

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### **Returning Overseas Filipino Workers (ROFs)**

1. Travel Authority / Entry Pass issued by PNP/Local Task Force/ Local Chief Executive.
2. Forty eight (48) hour RT-PCR negative test result and Quarantine Certification issued by DOH- Bureau of Quarantine.
3. Proof of Residence.

### **Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs)**

1. Travel Authority / Pass to be issued by Municipal or City Chief of Police for travel between provinces within a region or Provincial Director if travel between regions.
2. Medical Certificate from Municipal / City Health Office/ DOH Bureau of quarantine of origin.
3. Twenty four to Forty eight (24-48) hour RT-PCR negative test result or test upon arrival.

### **Business Travelers and APORs**

1. Company ID or any document from the company justifying the reason for travel.
2. Medical Certificate from Municipal / City Health Office of origin.
3. Travel Authority from the Joint Task Force COVID (JTV CV Shield)

### **Persons travelling for medical, dental or allied medical reasons**

1. Travel Authority / Entry Pass issued by PNP/Local Task Force/ Local Chief Executive
2. Certification of travel to access health service from a doctor, dentist, hospital, medical or allied medical institution.

### **Not allowed**

1. Travel for leisure.
2. Those persons not allowed to travel as stated in the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines as amended.

## **E. REPORTORIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- a. The Cauayan City Domestic Airport Management/ CAAP is hereby required, to the extent not inconsistent with law, to cooperate fully with the IPTF COVID-19 within the limits of its statutory authority and to furnish the Isabela Provincial Task Force with such assistance on a timely basis as is necessary to accomplish the purposes of the stated travel protocols and to submit regularly a weekly report to the Office of the Governor a list of all passenger arrivals;

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- b. The Provincial Task Force hereby requires the mandatory presence of LCEs in crisis and disaster situations;
- c. The Provincial Task Force hereby enjoins LCEs to be extra vigilant at these crucial times as the time gap between the new strain infection and the availability of vaccine is still wide and with this condition the perils and dangers of a second wave of infection is imminent, thus, LCEs play a vital role and requires their 100% attention and support to ground arrest the pandemic particularly the new strain even if there are no known detection yet in their respective area of responsibility. For this, LCEs are required to submit their Action Plan and Accomplishment Reports on monthly basis to the Office of the Governor to be submitted to the DILG for their reference and appropriate action.
- d. All LGUs are hereby enjoined to prepare, strengthen, and maintain their quarantine facilities and contract tracing efforts for a possible surge of COVID-19 cases and be equally prepared to receive arriving Overseas Filipinos, including contingency plans for the new strain.

**F. SPECIAL DIRECTIVES - The ISABELA PROVINCIAL TASK FORCE ON COVID-19 is mandated to convene and to report assessment, results and recommendations to the Governor and Chairperson of the Provincial Task Force on a weekly basis starting from January 11, 2021 regarding the status of COVID-19 cases in the province and to;**

- a. Implement necessary course of action to early detect cases with new strain;
- b. Adopt a systematic approach for contract tracing to improve, strengthen if not perfect the capacity of contact tracing in the province and if applicable delegate a local version of contact tracing czar for the province;
- c. The use of Staysafe.ph system by LGUs for ease of contact tracing is also highly requested;
- d. Reactivate all Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams (BHERTS) in the province of Isabela to facilitate COVID-19 emergency response measures specifically on the possible transmission of a new strain.
- e. Conduct education and awareness campaign regarding the new strain, informing the public to adhere strictly and continuously to the Minimum Public Health Standards to include information dissemination regarding the importance of vaccination against COVID-19 through social media and radio broadcast.

**SECTION 2. PENALTIES.** Violations of any provisions of this order shall be subject to penalties pursuant to national laws and local ordinances;


**SECTION 3. INCORPORATION CLAUSE.** All laws, legal orders, rules and regulations that have been issued and/ or will be issued by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines, particularly IATF-MEID pertaining to public health and COVID-19 are hereby incorporated herein and made integral part of this Executive Order.

**SECTION 4. SEPERABILITY CLAUSE.** Should any provision of this Order be declared invalid, the other provisions unaffected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SECTION 6. REPEALING CLAUSE.** All issuances, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof that are inconsistent with any provisions of this Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 7. EFFECTIVITY.** This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Issued this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021 in the City of Ilagan, Isabela, Philippines.

  
**HON. RODOLFO T. ALBANO III**  
Provincial Governor  
Chairperson, IPTF- COVID 19  
Province of Isabela

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