



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
City of Ilagan

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 23
Series of 2021

REITERATION OF AND ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN EXISTING PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR THE POSSIBLE ENTRY AND TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19 DELTA VARIANT (B.1.617.2) IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 12, 2020 declared the COVID-19 outbreaks in various countries as pandemic;

WHEREAS, as early as June 2021, the WHO identified a more infectious and resistant COVID-19 variant, the B.1.617.2 commonly called as DELTA Variant and has been primarily linked to infection surges in India, Europe, Israel, some Asian countries and the United States;

WHEREAS, on 22 July 2021 the Department of Health (DOH) confirmed the local transmission of the Delta variant in the country through the University of the Philippines - Philippine Genome Center, and case investigation by the DOH Epidemiology Bureau and the regional and local epidemiology and surveillance units;

WHEREAS, upon detection of local cases with the Delta variant, the national government has initiated enhanced COVID-19 response in areas where Delta variant cases were detected through the implementation of tightened border controls, while both the national and local governments continuously work together to intensify the implementation of the prevent, detect, isolate, treat, and re-integrate response strategies and increase the local health system capacity to be able to manage cases for a possible surge;

WHEREAS, the local government units have the authority to conduct and enforce disease preventions and control measures as provided under Sec. 6 (e) of Republic Act No. 11332 "Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act";

WHEREAS, in response to these latest developments, the Provincial Government of Isabela finds it very urgent and necessary to strengthen the implementation of Minimum Public Health Standards, and such other related quarantine procedures and disease prevention and control measures, in preparation for and avert the possible entry and transmission of the Delta Variant strain in the province;

NOW THEREFORE, I, **RODOLFO T. ALBANO III**, Governor of the province of Isabela, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order;

SECTION 1. DECLARATION. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REITERATED AND ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN EXISTING PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR THE POSSIBLE ENTRY AND TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19 DELTA VARIANT (B.1.617.2) IN THE PROVINCE.

I LIKEWISE ORDER THE STRICT COMPLIANCE OF THE HERE-BELOW PROACTIVE MEASURES AND RESTRICTIONS AND HEREBY TASK THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE- ISABELA POLICE PROVINCIAL OFFICE (**PNP-IPPO**), THE ISABELA PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICE (**IPHO**), THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (**DILG**) ISABELA PROVINCIAL OFFICE, THE OTHER MEMBER AGENCIES OF THE PROVINCIAL COVID-19 TASK FORCE, ALL **CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS** AND LOCAL TASK FORCES, AS WELL AS ALL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES OPERATING IN THE PROVINCE AS WELL AS ALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS, TO WIT:

SECTION 2. POLICY AND GUIDELINES. All residents are hereby directed to obey, follow and abide strictly with the minimum public health standards and protocols in addition to those stated under the latest IATF-MEID Omnibus Guidelines such as but not limited to the following;

1. MINIMUM PUBLIC HEALTH STANDARDS

a. WEARING OF FACE MASK:

- ii. Double Face masks must be worn at all times;
- iii. Medical grade masks are highly encouraged and should be properly disposed of after use;
- iv. Masks with vents should not be used;
- v. Cloth masks, with additional filter such as tissue paper or similar material, may be used as long as they are clean and washed daily. The filter should be changed daily or after every sneezing or coughing episode, and should be properly disposed of after use. Hands should be washed/disinfected before replacing the filters;

- vi. Frequent mask handling and manipulation should be avoided;

b. WEARING OF FACE SHIELDS:

- i. Face shields shall cover the entire face (completely cover the sides and length of the face). If possible, face shields should extend to the ears and below the chin;
- ii. Visor-type face shields shall not be allowed;
- iii. Face shields and masks should always be worn together when going outside of residence;
- iv. Face shields may be removed according to the demands of the work or when the occupational safety and health of the employees so requires.

c. PHYSICAL DISTANCING:

Physical distancing of at least one (1) meter, or two (2) meters when possible, shall be observed at all times. This must be practiced in combination with the wearing of masks and face shields.

The PNP through the IPPO shall ensure strict compliance at ALL times and violators will be apprehended and penalized according to existing provincial and local ordinances.

2. MOVEMENT OF PERSONS, MASS GATHERINGS AND ESTABLISHMENT AND GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE ACCESIBILITY.

- a. The movement of all persons in all areas shall be limited to accessing essential goods and services, and for work in the offices or industries permitted to operate hereunder. Outdoor tourist attractions, as may be defined by the DOT, shall remain to be allowed at thirty percent (30%) venue capacity with strict adherence to minimum public health standards;
- b. Any person below eighteen (18) years old, those who are sixty-five (65) years old and above, those with immunodeficiency, comorbidity, or other health risks, and pregnant women, including any person who resides with the aforementioned, shall be required to remain in their residences at all times, except when indispensable under the circumstances for obtaining essential goods and services or for work in permitted industries and offices;

- c. Individuals qualified under the vaccination priority group A and B including medical frontline health workers, senior citizens, indigent population, and uniformed personnel, government workers, economic front liners etc., who refused or who did not avail the vaccination other than for religious, medical and health reasons will be denied entry from any business establishments where people normally converge and National Government Offices including C/MLGU halls anywhere in the province;
- d. It is now hereto likewise adopted as policy as we encourage component C/MLGUs to do the same that qualified but unvaccinated individuals other than for medical and religious reasons shall be denied all assistances coming from the government including but not limited to financial assistances, livelihood assistances and all forms of LGU assistance or “ayuda”;
- e. It is now mandatory for all individuals to be vaccinated with the dosage required as failure to do so will now limit their movement. Business establishments as described above and National and Local Government institutions are enjoined to check on the vaccination card or certificate of vaccination issued by the appropriate administering health office of those individuals under Vaccination Priority group A and B when entering their establishments. Any individual, notwithstanding their APOR status, without a vaccination card indicating at least one dose of vaccine shall be denied access to all Business Establishments operating in the province and in all National and Local Government Offices in Isabela. Business Establishments and LGUs who violate this Order shall be denied Safety Seal Certification by the Provincial Safety Seal Inspection and Certification Team (PSSICT), the DILG, the DTI, the DOLE, the DOT, the BFP and all other certifying agencies and shall be closed, stripped of business permit and locked down by the concerned LGUs. To reiterate, the LCEs, the PNP-IPPO, the IPHO, and all agencies tasked to issue Safety seal Certification are hereby tasked to strictly oversee the implementation of these protocols;
- f. Work in all government offices may be at full operational capacity or under such alternative work arrangements as agencies may deem proper in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations issued by the Civil Service Commission (CSC). Provided that for offices requiring employees to report physically, commissioned shuttle services as well as point-to-point transport services may be provided;

- g. Food preparation establishments such as commissaries, restaurants, and eateries may operate with their indoor dine-in services at the venue or seating capacity of twenty percent (20%), and with their al fresco or outdoor dine-in services at the venue or seating capacity of fifty percent (50%). Personal care services, such as beauty salons, beauty parlors, barbershops, and nail spas, may operate up to thirty percent (30%) of venue or seating capacity. For this purpose, these establishments shall only provide services that can accommodate the wearing of face masks at all times by patrons/clients and service providers;
- h. Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, and Exhibitions (MICE) events and social events in wall-closed venue establishments shall not be allowed;
- i. All business establishments in the province as well as component LGUs are encouraged to undergo assessment under the Safety Seal Certification Program. LGUs and business establishments awarded Safety Seal Certifications shall be allowed to operate at an additional 10 to 20 percentage points beyond the prescribed on-site capacity or venue/seating capacity, whichever is applicable;
- j. Indoor sports courts and venues and indoor tourist attractions including but not limited to hotels, public resorts and community pools shall not be allowed to operate unless and until duly issued a Safety Seal Certification by the Provincial Safety Seal Inspection and Certification Team (PSSICT); Cockfighting remains to be prohibited unless their management have adopted a computer-based system of betting that no longer requires shouting of bets and exchange of cash from one bettor to another, subject likewise to PSSICT Certification;
- k. Specialized markets of the DOT such as Staycations without age restrictions shall remain to be allowed at such capacities, protocols, and restrictions as may be imposed by the DOT;
- l. Interzonal travel shall be allowed subject to restrictions of the local government unit of destination. Point-to-Point travel to areas under General Community Quarantine and Modified General Community Quarantine shall be allowed without age restrictions subject to an RT-PCR test-before-travel requirement for those below eighteen years old (18) and above sixty-five (65), and other protocols and restrictions

as may be imposed by the DOT and the Local Government Unit of destination;

- m. Religious gatherings shall be allowed up to twenty percent (20%) of the venue capacity. Provided that, there is no objection from the local government unit where the religious gathering may take place. Provided, further, that the low risk LGUs may increase the allowable venue capacity up to fifty percent (50%). The religious denominations should strictly observe their submitted protocols and the minimum public health standards. Gatherings for necrological services, wakes, inurnment, funerals for those who died of causes other than COVID-19 shall be allowed, provided that the same shall be limited to immediate family members, upon satisfactory proof of their relationship with the deceased and with full compliance with the prescribed minimum public health standards for the duration of the activity;
- n. Other provisions of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, as amended, and other IATF resolutions not affected by the foregoing shall continue to be in effect including those on interzonal travel into and out of the aforementioned areas and the operation of public transportation. The use of active transportation shall likewise be promoted;

All Local Chief Executive in the province are likewise instructed to announce through public address system or any means available to inform their constituents that violators of these protocols shall be apprehended and penalized under existing local and provincial ordinances.

3. TO FURTHER PREVENT ENTRY OF VARIANTS OF CONCERN PARTICULARLY THE DELTA VARIANT IN THE PROVINCE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS SHALL LIKEWISE BE STRENGTHENED:

- a. The BHERTS must identify all people arriving at their barangay from places with known infection of the Delta variant and closely monitor them;
- b. Infection prevention and control protocols must be strictly followed in all quarantine and isolation facilities to prevent transmission in the facility and in the households of facility workers;

- c. Local Government Unit handover must include clear transportation arrangements and quarantine accommodation;
- d. LGUs must closely monitor for the appearance of any sign or symptom while arrivals are completing their quarantine and immediately conduct Reverse Transcription - Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) testing after detection of symptoms;
- e. Health assessment must be done for all OFW arrivals at the end of the isolation or quarantine period.
- f. The implementation of Prevent - Detect - Isolate - Treat - Reintegrate Strategy should be continuous and strengthened, as follows:
 - i. Active case finding;
 - ii. Intensified contact tracing;
 - iii. Immediate quarantine/isolation which should preferably be in a facility;
 - iv. Declaration of localized Enhanced Community Quarantine down to the zone or barangay levels;
 - v. Stricter implementation and observance of minimum public health standards; and
 - vi. Fast-tracked deployment of COVID-19 vaccine.
- g. To enable the safe continuity of economic activities, consider developing and converting more outdoor spaces into temporary outdoor weekend markets and dining spaces, and permanently accessible urban green spaces, outdoor recreational spaces, and public sanitation facilities (handwashing, toilet, showers).

4. MEDICAL CAPACITY

Government and private hospitals must ensure that there are enough COVID-19-dedicated ward, ICU, and TTMF beds, especially in areas experiencing case spikes. The provincial government is also preparing for enough supplies of COVID-19 medicines, oxygen tanks, and critical care equipment in its hospitals and augmentation of human resources.

SECTION 3. PENALTIES. Violations of any provision of this order shall be subject to penalties pursuant to national laws and local ordinances.

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

SECTION 5. REPEALING CLAUSE. All issuances, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof that are inconsistent with any provision of this Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVITY. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Issued this 26th day of July, 2021 in the City of Ilagan, Isabela.



RODOLFO T. ALBANO III
Governor

cc: All LGUs/LCE in Isabela
PNP-IPPO
DILG Isabela
All Business establishments in Isabela
All member agencies of the Provincial
COVID-19 Task Force