



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Health**  
Kagawaran ng Kalusugan  
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## UPDATES ON NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

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*Information may change at any time due to the evolving situation.*

### COVID-19 Case Tracker [\[view in Full Screen\]](#)

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## Latest Updates

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DATE TIME

UPDATE

April 17, 2020 5:00 PM **DOH issues Press Release: No cure yet for COVID-19; DOH programs on immunization and TB medicine remain available despite pandemic**  
*The Department of Health (DOH) reiterated that as of today, there are no Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved medicines or vaccines with indication for use against COVID-19. FDA Director-General Rolando Enrique Domingo clarified during the DOH Beat COVID-19 Virtual Presser that there are no drugs or vaccines with an approved indication for the treatment of COVID-19, nor are there any pending applications for it. "Kapag sinabi po kasi natin na ang gamot ay rehistrado or aprubado ng FDA, ibig sabihin, yung gamot po na yun ay nasuri ng mabuti at na-testing para sa partikular na sakit na sinasabi niyang gagamutin niya," explained DG Domingo...*

April 16, 2020 5:00 PM **DOH issues Press Release: DOH: DOH explains COVID-19 treatment protocols**  
*The Department of Health (DOH) yesterday explained the protocols on treating COVID-19 patients, including off-label medicines allowed to be administered to them, and how healthcare workers monitor their situation while admitted in a COVID-19 health facility. In its Thursday episode of Beat COVID-19 Virtual Presser, Dr. Beverly Lorraine Ho, OIC- Director IV for Health Promotion and Communication Service was joined by Dr. Marissa Alejandria, President of the Philippine Society of Microbiology & Infectious Diseases and Professor at the University of the Philippines General Hospital, Department of Clinical Epidemiology, National Institutes of Health, and Dr. Deonne Gauran, a hematologist at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH)...*

April 15, 2020 5:00 PM **DOH issues Press Release: DOH: Every Filipino is covered by PhilHealth's COVID-19 case rates**  
*The Department of Health (DOH) today announced that PhilHealth has issued guidelines on "case-based payment of benefits" (PhilHealth Circular 2020-0009- Benefit Packages for Inpatient Care of Probable and Confirmed COVID-19 Developing Severe Illnesses/Outcomes) for COVID-19 patients. "This is part of PhilHealth's mandate to ensure that all Filipinos have equitable access to quality, affordable and accessible health care services," Health OIC-Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said during the Beat COVID-19 Virtual Presser that featured Dr. Shirley Domingo, PhilHealth Vice President for the Corporate Affairs Group as its guest...*

April 14, 2020 5:00 PM **DOH issues Press Release: DOH: Test labs without certification will expose public to undue harm**  
*The Department of Health (DOH) today warns the public that test laboratories without appropriate certifications will expose more people to undue harm. Health OIC-Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire explained during the DOH's daily Beat COVID-19 Virtual Presser that the COVID-19 virus is highly contagious. That is the reason why we need a Biosafety Level 2 facility, laboratory technologists trained on biosafety and PCR procedures, regularly calibrated equipment and instruments, and a well-established protocol on the quality assurance of test results, if we are to conduct tests...*

April 14, 2020 5:00 PM **DOH issues Press Release: DOH explains COVID-testing protocol**  
*The Department of Health (DOH) today clarified that assessment by a licensed health professional remains a prerequisite before one could get tested for COVID-19. Health OIC-Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire explained during the DOH's daily Beat COVID-19 Virtual Presser that those who think they are infected will still need to be assessed by a health professional. They can do this in the comforts of your home through Telemedicine consultations...*

**DAILY GLOBAL SITUATION (DATA AS OF 18 APRIL 2020)**

<b>Global</b>	2,160,207 confirmed (85,678 new)
<b>South-East Asia</b>	25,291 confirmed (1,731 new)

Source: [World Health Organization](#)

**RESOURCES**

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**Open to all callers nationwide:**

**(02) 894-COVID**

**1555**

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