



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
Manila

097.13 DPWH  
03.29.2021

MAR 29 2021

DEPARTMENT ORDER )  
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NO. 30 )  
Series of 2021 *03/29/21* )

**SUBJECT: Revised Construction Safety Guidelines for the Implementation of Infrastructure Projects During the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis, Amending Department Order No. 39, Series of 2020**

In line with the announcement from the Office of the President of the approval by President Rodrigo R. Duterte of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases' recommendation to place the Greater Metro Manila Area under Enhanced Community Quarantine last 27 March 2021, and in accordance with the amendments to the Omnibus Guidelines for the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 106-B, S. 2021, dated 28 March 2021, including other pertinent issuances and recommendations of the relevant government agencies, as well as to further balance economic growth through infrastructure development with public health and safety, Department Order No. 39, Series of 2020, is hereby amended accordingly.

**I. COVERAGE**

The Revised Construction Safety Guidelines for the Implementation of Infrastructure Projects During the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis (Guidelines) shall apply to all government and private construction projects as stated in the Omnibus Guidelines for the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines (Omnibus Guidelines) in areas under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ), General Community Quarantine (GCQ), and Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ).

**II. TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS THAT MAY BE IMPLEMENTED PURSUANT TO THE REVISED OMNIBUS GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY QUARANTINE IN THE PHILIPPINES**

A. For areas under **ECQ** and **MECQ**, all essential public and private construction projects shall be allowed at full operational capacity, subject to strict compliance with these Guidelines. However, **small-scale projects** shall not be allowed. For this purpose, **small-scale projects** are defined as those construction projects that are intended for purely private and personal use, and which, because of scale, would not be able to or would impractically be unable to comply with these Guidelines.

*Essential public and private construction projects shall include, but will not be limited to the following:*

1. Health, quarantine, or isolation facilities for close contact exposure, suspect, and probable cases, and confirmed COVID-19 patients;

2. Facilities for the health sector workers, including those dealing with close contact exposure, suspect, and probable cases, and confirmed COVID-19 patients;
3. Vaccination centers or facilities or infrastructure projects necessary for the supply, distribution, and administration of vaccines;
4. Facilities for construction personnel who perform emergency works and other disaster risk reduction and rehabilitation works;
5. Educational facilities and government structures, offices, or buildings;
6. Sewerage projects, water service facilities projects, and digital works;
7. Priority public infrastructure projects, which shall include roads, bridges, flood control, and Active Transport facilities; and
8. Priority private infrastructure projects defined as those that refer to food production, agriculture, fisheries, energy, housing, communication, water utilities, manufacturing, and business process outsourcing (BPO).

**B. For areas under GCQ and MGCQ:**

*All public and private construction projects shall be allowed, subject to strict compliance with the herein Revised Construction Safety Guidelines.*

### **III. REVISED CONSTRUCTION SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

**A. Prior to Deployment**

1. Most-at-risk population (MARF) for COVID-19 in the workplace (e.g. senior citizens, pregnant women, individuals with underlying health conditions) and those below 18 years of age shall continue to observe work-from-home arrangements. Should they be needed to occasionally report to work, they may be allowed to, provided a Certificate of Fit to Work is secured from the Occupational Health Personnel (qualified first aider, nurse, dentist, or physician engaged by the employer to provide occupational health services in the establishment, project, site, or workplace). They must stay in the workplace only for a specified number of hours and must limit physical contact inside the premises.
2. Employers are encouraged to collaborate with the national and/or local government testing efforts and follow the expanded testing strategy and rules, as provided in DOH DM No. 2020-0258, DOH DM No. 2020-0258-A, and other relevant issuances.
3. Should mandatory testing be implemented by the employer, it should not constitute as an added cost to the employee. All individuals who are at risk of contracting COVID-19 shall be tested, and these include the following groups<sup>1</sup>: (1) suspect cases, (2) individuals with relevant history of travel and exposure (or contact), whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, and (3) healthcare workers with possible exposure, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic.
4. Testing of Symptomatic and Close Contacts<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Case definitions shall be based on DOH Administrative Order No. 2020-0013 dated 09 April 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Close contact exposures are those that have happened two (2) days before or within fourteen (14) days from onset of symptoms of a confirmed or probable case, includes: (1) Face-to-face contact with a confirmed case

- a. All employees experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and those who are close contacts must undergo RT-PCR testing. Employers shall inform the LGU/s having jurisdiction over the workplace and the respective residence/s of the symptomatic employees and close contacts before testing for monitoring purposes.
  - b. Symptomatic employees with close contact exposure shall undergo fourteen (14) days quarantine. Upon its completion and prior to resumption of work, the employee shall present a Certificate of Quarantine Completion from the step-down care facility or local health office, per Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Disease (PSMID) Guidelines on Return-to-Work. A step-down care facility refers to a DOH or LGU identified facility, such as Temporary Treatment Mega Facility (TTMF), for recovering COVID-19 patients who have been hospitalized, but have not yet been certified as COVID-free and transferred to the TTMF.
5. Testing of Asymptomatic Employees Returning to Work
- a. RT-PCR or antibody-based or antigen tests are NOT required for asymptomatic employees returning to work.
  - b. Employees physically reporting to work shall be screened for COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, cough, colds, and other respiratory symptoms, and/or determination of travel or exposure to COVID-19 cases within the last 14 days.
6. Asymptomatic employees, prior to physically returning to work, may be cleared by the local health officer or Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) physician.
7. Rapid antibody-based or antigen test kits shall not be used as stand-alone tests to definitively diagnose or rule out COVID-19, as these must be used in conjunction with RT-PCR. COVID-19 testing shall be in accordance with DOH DM No. 2020-0258 and DOH DM No. 2020-0258-A.
8. Concessionaires, contractors, and subcontractors shall ensure that their projects are compliant with DOLE D.O. No. 13, Series of 1998. Cost of COVID-19 prevention and control measures such as, but not limited to, testing, disinfection facilities, hand sanitizers, PPEs, signages, and proper orientation and training, as well as the provision of finance, transportation, food, and other services, as needed, shall be provided and be for the account of the employers/contractors. For private construction projects, the provisions of DOLE Labor Advisory No. 18-20 shall apply.
9. Concessionaires, contractors, and subcontractors shall provide disinfection facilities at their respective project sites, in compliance with pertinent DOH and IATF Guidelines, to be placed at strategic locations to ensure the safety and welfare of all personnel. The use of disinfection tents, misting chambers, or sanitation booths for individuals is strictly prohibited.

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within one (1) meter and for more than fifteen (15) minutes, (2) Direct physical contact with a confirmed case, (3) Direct care for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without using proper personal protective equipment. Indiscriminate RT-PCR testing beyond close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case is not recommended.

10. Proper information dissemination regarding COVID-19 construction protocols, on top of existing construction safety practices, shall be conducted by Safety Officers on all personnel.

**B. During Deployment**

1. Bona fide IDs issued to employees by construction companies, concessionaires, contractors, and sub-contractors allowed to operate during the relevant community quarantine classification shall constitute as sufficient identification and pass for persons/workers/employees of said permitted establishments/offices, pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 106-B, S. 2021, dated 28 March 2021, and relevant IATF guidelines.
2. Construction workers are likewise exempt from the uniform curfew hours imposed by LGUs, pursuant to Section B (15) of IATF Resolution No. 106-B, S. 2021.
3. Back offices of construction companies, concessionaires, contractors, and sub-contractors permitted to operate during the relevant community quarantine classification, being necessary for the efficient and coordinated implementation of priority public and private construction projects, may adopt skeleton workforce or alternative work arrangements permitted under ECQ and MECQ, subject to pertinent rules that may be provided therefor by DOLE.
4. Company policies on prevention and control of COVID-19 should be aligned with existing minimum public health standards and guidelines issued by DOH and other regulatory agencies.
5. The employer shall conduct an inventory of works for the construction sequencing to be followed and undertaken to uphold the required social distancing.
6. All persons are mandated to wear full-coverage face shields together with face masks, earloop masks, indigenous, reusable, or do-it-yourself masks, or other facial protective equipment which can effectively lessen the transmission of COVID-19, whenever they go out of their residences (and to be worn at all times in the workplace), pursuant to existing guidelines issued by the national government, subject to fair and humane penalties or punishments that may be imposed by LGUs or implemented by law enforcement agencies, respectively, and in accordance with the rules on face masks and face shields provided under DTI-DOLE Joint Memorandum Circular No. 20-04-A.
7. All employees must be subjected to temperature checks prior to entering the building/site/office spaces. Proper referral to the appropriate facility shall be done in cases of symptomatic employees.
8. All employees, upon entering the building premises/workplaces, shall be required to accomplish the Health Declaration Form (ANNEX "A-1" of DTI-DOLE Joint Memorandum Circular No. 20-04-A), or any digital iteration thereof. The security staff or other responsible personnel shall immediately screen the accomplished form

and perform a temperature check (ANNEX "B" DTI-DOLE Joint Memorandum Circular No. 20-04-A).

- a. If "Yes" to any item is answered or if with a  $T > 37.5$  degrees Celsius, the employee shall be denied entry and referred to the workplace isolation area for further evaluation by the Safety Officer.
- b. If "No" to all items are answered and temperature is  $< 37.5$  degrees Celsius, the employee shall be permitted entry.
- c. The security staff or other responsible personnel on duty shall immediately give the accomplished health declaration form to the company's Human Resources (HR) Department for appropriate action and storage.
- d. Should an online health declaration form be used, the form should be electronically submitted to HR.
- e. The Health Declaration Form shall be handled and processed in accordance with the Data Privacy Act and related issuances to ensure that:
  - i. Data collected should only include such necessary data proportional to the purpose of contract tracing;
  - ii. The processing of personal data shall be transparent, and the data subjects shall be apprised of the reasons for such collection;
  - iii. Reasonable and appropriate security measures and safeguards shall be implemented to protect the personal data collected;
  - iv. The personal data collected shall be considered highly confidential; and
  - v. The personal data shall be stored only for a limited period and shall be disposed of properly after thirty (30) days from date of accomplishment.

Employers shall direct symptomatic individuals through appropriate health system entry points such as the primary care facility (e.g. Barangay Health Center, Infirmaries, Private Clinics / hospitals) or telehealth consultation. Referral networks shall be established.

Employers may contact the DOH through its hotline 1555 for guidance on the handling and referring of symptomatic employees.

9. All personnel must practice respiratory etiquette at all times. They must use tissue or the inner portion of the elbow to cover the nose and mouth when sneezing/coughing. Proper disposal of tissue after use should be observed.
10. Flexible dining policy shall be adapted (e.g. staggered breaks). The number of workers who can eat in the pantry/dining area at a given time should be limited. Eating alone by workers in their respective workstations is highly encouraged.
11. Employers shall provide their employees with psychosocial support, especially those presenting mental health concerns. If this is not available, a referral system to mental health specialists must be in place, either through establishing a network with an accredited health facility, through telemedicine services, or through the National Center for Mental Health Crisis Hotline. Further, employers shall promote work-life balance, especially in these trying times, through proper scheduling of activities and workforce rotation.

12. Employers classified as large and medium-sized private establishments (i.e. those with total assets above PHP15M) are encouraged to provide shuttle services to their employees. Minimum public health standards should be enforced in the shuttle services. All vehicle types, as long as not expressly prohibited by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) through an issuance, may be used for shuttle services.
13. As smoking is a risk factor for COVID-19, smoking and the use of e-cigarettes or vaping are strictly prohibited in the workplace/construction sites and premises.
14. As COVID-19 is spread through respiratory droplets, spitting in public places can contribute to the transmission of COVID-19. Employers shall implement policies and other applicable guidelines which prohibit spitting.
15. All personnel must wash their hands with soap and water regularly, or use hand disinfectants. Employers should place hand-washing stations with soap and water, hand sanitizers, and/or dispensers with an alcohol-based solution in all entrances, exits, and areas with high foot traffic. Employers must ensure daily monitoring and availability of hand soaps, sanitizers, and disinfectants.
16. Employers must ensure disinfection and routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and objects using 0.5% bleach solution (100mL bleach, 900mL water) at least once a day. Disinfection is encouraged between shifts. Disinfection shall be in accordance with DOH DM Nos. 2020-0157 and 2020-0157-A on disinfection protocols.
17. Physical distancing of at least one (1) meter apart from each co-worker should always be practiced in the construction site, if possible. Employer may install temporary barriers, where applicable.
18. Face-to-face meetings should be limited, as much as possible. Tool box or gang meetings for safety should still be conducted, but following minimum public health standards.
19. Employers classified as large and medium-sized private establishments (i.e. those with total assets above PHP15M) shall provide for employees' temporary lodging or quarters for the duration of the project. The minimum public health standards and protocols enshrined in DOH AO No. 2020-0015 and other relevant issuances shall be also implemented within the temporary lodging or quarters. If the employer is unable to provide for his employees' temporary lodging or quarters, the returning employees shall be subjected to the pre-deployment procedures upon every entrance into the workplace/construction sites and premises. This shall in no way be construed as a right by the employer to limit or prevent his employees' from leaving the work premises, to access essential goods or otherwise, subject to the conduct of pre-deployment procedures upon the employees' return or upon every entry by said employees into the work premises.
20. Field offices, employees' quarters, and other common areas shall be regularly maintained, including the daily disinfection of such facilities.
21. Employers shall establish Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Committees in



accordance with Republic Act No. 11058, its IRR, and DOLE Department Order No. 198, Series of 2018, which took effect on 25 January 2019. The OSH Committee and/or Safety Officer of the workplace shall oversee enforcement and monitoring of the minimum public health standards for COVID-19 prevention in the workplace and of DTI-DOLE Joint Memorandum Circular No. 20-04-A.

22. Large and medium private establishments (i.e. with total assets of above PHP15M) are mandated to designate an isolation area of one room for every 200 employees, which must be situated near the entrance/s or in a nearby facility, for employees needing further assessment due to elevated temperature, presence of flu-like symptoms, any "yes" answer to the Health Declaration, or exposure history to a COVID-19 case or probable case.
23. The designated isolation area shall have adequate ventilation and shall have sufficient provision of PPEs for the health personnel and symptomatic patients (e.g. face shields and medical-grade face masks). The isolation area shall be provided with chairs and must have a dedicated restroom. It shall be disinfected once every two (2) hours and/or immediately after any infected or confirmed COVID-19 employee leaves the area.
24. Private establishments unable to establish an isolation area may make arrangements with a temporary treatment and monitoring facility nearby or with the Barangay Local Government Unit, for immediate referral of employees who fulfill the criteria for isolation.
25. For off-site employees' quarters, transport service, duly disinfected before and after use, shall be provided, and social distancing shall likewise be observed therein at all times.
26. Should employees leave the construction site and return, they shall be subject to the necessary and applicable pre-deployment procedures, in line with the established minimum public health standards and protocols.
27. Sharing of construction and office equipment is discouraged. However, if necessary, the shared equipment must be disinfected in between transfers amongst personnel.
28. All material and equipment delivery and disposal shall be conducted by a specific team of personnel on an isolated loading/unloading zone while limiting contact with the delivery/disposal personnel. All material and/or equipment entering the construction site shall be duly disinfected as much as possible.
29. Non-essential personnel, visitors, and the general public shall be restricted from entering the construction site, isolation site, employees' quarters, and field offices. Otherwise, all personnel entering the construction site premises on a temporary basis (e.g. delivery truck drivers, inspectors, etc.) shall be properly logged and checked for symptoms. Gatherings, liquors, and/or merry-making are strictly prohibited within the construction site premises.
30. Clustered and staggered deployment of employees within the construction site shall be observed to minimize personnel contact and for easier contact tracing.

31. Proper waste disposal shall be provided for infectious waste, such as PPEs and other waste products coming from outside the construction premises.
32. If one confirmed case of COVID-19 is detected in the construction site/workplace, such place shall be disinfected with an appropriate disinfectant solution (0.5% bleach solution). The conduct of a comprehensive disinfection by specialists is recommended.
33. The site must be locked down for 24 hours prior to disinfection to lessen transmission to sanitation personnel. During the disinfection process, all doors and windows should be opened to maximize ventilation. The site may only be opened 24 hours after the disinfection process.
34. Employers shall ensure that the temporary closure of their establishments for disinfection purposes will be done in accordance with the National Task Force Against COVID-19 Memorandum Circular No. 2 dated 15 June 2020 on the Operational Guidelines on the Application of Zoning Containment Strategy in the Localization of the National Action Plan against COVID-19 Response.
35. Reporting of COVID-19 test results to the DOH shall be done in accordance with DOH Administrative Order No. 2020-0013, entitled "Revised Guidelines for the Inclusion of COVID-19 in the List of Notifiable Diseases for Mandatory Reporting to the Department of Health."
36. Employers shall ensure strict compliance with the protocols established by the DOH and LGUs for contact tracing of employees in close contact with a COVID-19 case, as specified in DOH Memorandum No. 2020-0189 entitled, "Updated Guidelines on Contact Tracing of Close Contacts of Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Cases".
37. Other applicable provisions of DTI-DOLE Joint Memorandum Circular No. 20-04-A or the "DTI and DOLE Supplemental Guidelines on Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19", issued on 15 August 2020, are hereby deemed incorporated in these Guidelines.

#### **IV. MONITORING and ENFORCEMENT**

- A. For DPWH infrastructure projects, the head of the concerned DPWH Implementing Office (IO) shall monitor compliance with these Guidelines.
- B. For LGU implemented projects and private construction projects, the LGU concerned, through its City/Municipal Engineering Office, shall monitor compliance with these Guidelines.
- C. For infrastructure projects implemented by other national government agencies, Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCC), and other government instrumentalities, the head or representative of the agency, GOCC, or government instrumentality concerned shall monitor compliance with these guidelines.



- D. Concessionaires, contractors, and subcontractors shall submit to the DPWH IO, LGU, or Implementing Government Agency, GOCC, or Instrumentality, as the case may be, a certification under oath that they have complied and shall continue to comply with the provisions of these Guidelines within fifteen (15) days from commencement of work. (A copy of the certification is attached hereto as **Annex "A"**)
- E. The allowed government and private construction projects are subject to the visitorial and enforcement powers of the DOLE and the DTI in order to ensure compliance with the provisions on minimum health standards and protocols in accordance with the Omnibus Guidelines.
- F. The Offices of the Building Officials (OBO) shall also conduct inspections in their respective jurisdictions, in order to ensure strict compliance with these Guidelines. In case of violation of minimum health standards and protocols, the OBO shall report such violation to the DOLE, DTI, or other relevant agency.

## **V. PENALTIES**

Violation of any provision of these Guidelines shall be subject to the following penalties, without prejudice to the imposition of additional administrative sanctions as the internal rules of DPWH may provide and/or further criminal action that may be filed against such erring concessionaires, contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers, its responsible officers, directors or employees, which may include, but shall not be limited to the following:

- A. *Termination of contract* for breach thereof resulting to default pursuant to Item III (A) (2) (c) (i), Annex I of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184 in relation to Section 37.2.3 of the same, which provides that bidding documents requiring bidders to know and be familiar with all existing laws, decrees, ordinances, acts, and regulations, including the Department Orders of DPWH, shall form part of the contract awarded, and refusal or failure to comply with the valid instruction of DPWH, as the procuring entity, shall justify the contract's termination;
- B. *Contract termination/rescission* under Section 12.21 (b) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 6957, as amended by Republic Act No. 7718 (BOT Law);
- C. *Referral to the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board* of any such violation by the contractor/subcontractor, which shall constitute as prima facie case of construction malperformance of grave consequence due to negligence, incompetence, or malpractice contemplated under DOLE D.O. No. 13, Series of 1998, and DPWH D.O. No. 56, Series of 2005, in relation to Republic Act No. 4566 (Contractors' License Law);
- D. *Section 9 (d) or (e), as the case may be, of Republic Act No. 11332*, otherwise known as the "Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act", and its Implementing Rules and Regulation.

## **VI. EFFECTIVITY**

These Guidelines shall take effect immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation.

This Order hereby supplements D.O. No. 39, Series of 2020, and amends provisions that are inconsistent herewith.

For information and guidance.



**MARK A. VILLAR**  
Secretary

Department of Public Works and Highways  
Office of the Secretary



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**Annex "A"**

Department of Public Works and Highways

Department Order No. **30**

Series of 2021

**CERTIFICATION AND UNDERTAKING**

Pursuant to DPWH Department Order No. \_\_, Series of 2021 (DO No. \_\_, s2021), the undersigned, (name and position) of (name of company and address), contractor of (name of office/s, name of project/s and project/s details), duly authorized to act for and in behalf of the said company (as evidenced by Board Resolution/Secretary's Certificate/Special Power of Attorney, dated \_\_\_\_\_, and attached hereto), hereby:

1. Attest that, in relation to our abovementioned project(s), our company has duly complied with all the requirements for the commencement/resumption/continuation of the operations/activities thereof during the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis, as set forth in DO No. \_\_, s2021; and
2. Undertake to:
  - a) Ensure strict and continued compliance with DO No. \_\_, s2021 and any DPWH issuances that may be issued in the future, in relation to the implementation of infrastructure projects during the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis Community Quarantine;
  - b) Allow and fully cooperate with the DPWH and other monitoring agencies' mentioned in the DPWH Revised Construction Safety Guidelines for the initial and regular inspection, and the monitoring of our abovementioned office/s and project/s, pursuant to DO No. \_\_, s2021; and
  - c) Regularly submit (at the end of each month, beginning on the month following the resumption of operations/activities of our company's abovementioned office/s and project/s) to the DPWH and other monitoring agencies' mentioned in the DPWH Revised Construction Safety Guidelines concerned electronically (or through courier service or by personal service, if the former mode is not available/feasible or timely, and such DPWH Office concerned is not under ECQ), proof of our continued compliance with the existing or subsequently-issued requirements of the DPWH relative to the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis Community Quarantine, in the form of scanned, certified documents, photos, or videos, as part of the regular monitoring and post-audit process.

**Annex "A"**

Department of Public Works and Highways

Department Order No. 30

Series of 2021

Name of Company

Address

Contact Details

By:

(Signature)

Name

Position/Designation

Date

**SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN** to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2021, affiant exhibiting to me his/her competent evidence of identity/valid government ID/Passport No. \_\_\_\_\_ issued on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

Doc. No: \_\_\_\_\_;

Page No. \_\_\_\_\_;

Book No. \_\_\_\_\_;

Series of 2021.