

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Situation Report 3 **Philippines** 16 March 2020

Data reported by the Department of Health on 16 March 2020

Highlights

- 76 new cases tested positive for COVID-19 since 14 March 2020, and 6 new deaths.
- Out of the total of 140 confirmed cases, 26% are imported from outside of the Philippines (China, Japan, South Korea/USA, Australia, UAE, Indonesia, Taiwan, Switzerland, and 2 from the Diamond Princess Cruise Ship), 20% are categorised as localized transmission, and the remaining cases are unknown or still under investigation. For details on all cases: <https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>
- All relevant guidelines, issuances, and documents from key government departments on actions taken so far are available online at bit.ly/COVIDPH
- **COVID-19 Alert System to Code Red sublevel 2** active in Metro Manila, with more and more areas in the country issuing 'community quarantine' including Cotabato, Iligan, Davao, Zamboanga Sibugay, and Surigao cities, Lanao del Sur province, and Siagao and Bohol islands. Plans for Luzon-wide 'enhanced community quarantine' to be put in place, including suspension of transportation and increased uniformed personnel.
- Reports of overwhelmed health facilities within NCR are being verified to assess effective mechanism to address this.
- DOH prioritizing readiness of hospitals for treatment of cases and expanding laboratory testing capacity as soon as long-awaited supplies reach the country, both at national level (Research Institute for Tropical Medicine), 5 sub national laboratories, and an additional 7 laboratories.
- WHO is working closely together with partners including the USAID, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support with rapid procurement and mobilisation of urgent supplies, especially laboratory supplies, ventilators, mobile hospitals and PPE. A draft costed response plan to feed into the government's efforts was shared with partners.

PHILIPPINES SITUATION IN NUMBERS

140 confirmed (76 new)

37 imported cases (26%)

28 local transmission (20%)

28 under investigation (20%)

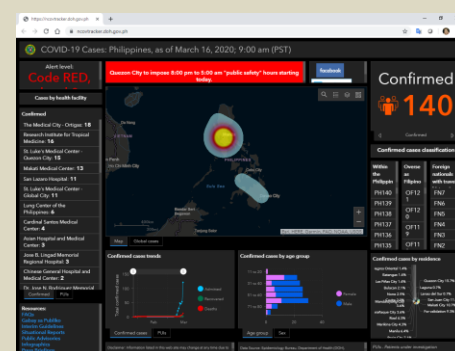
47 unknown (34%)

12 deaths (6 new)

176 admitted Persons Under Investigation

874 samples tested

Updated DOH dashboard:



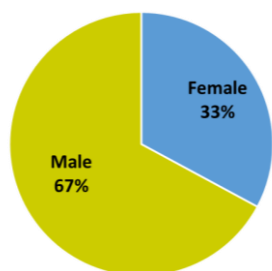
<https://ncovtracker.doh.gov.ph/>

Current Situation

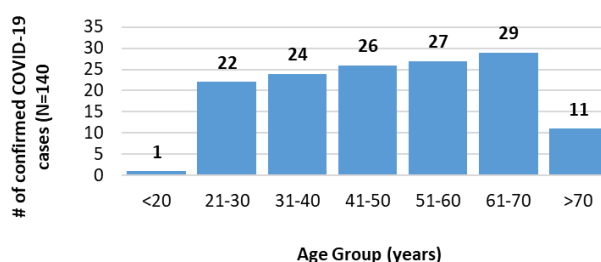
Between 14 and 16 March, 76 new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in the Philippines, totalling 140 confirmed cases, including 12 deaths. Out of the 12 deaths, 82% are male, and 50% are 60 years and older, ranging between 40 and 86 years of age. Majority of deaths with known or suspected co-morbidities including diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and hypertension.

Among the 140 confirmed cases, 94 are male (67%) and 46 are female (33%). The most affected age group is 61-70 years (21%) followed by 51-60 years (19%).

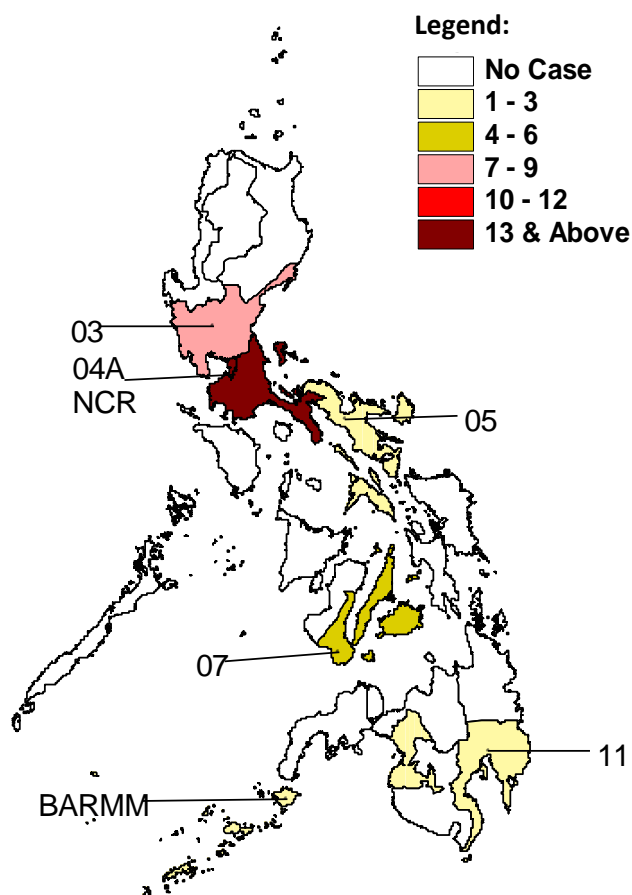
Gender distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines in %
18 January-16 March 2020 (N=140)



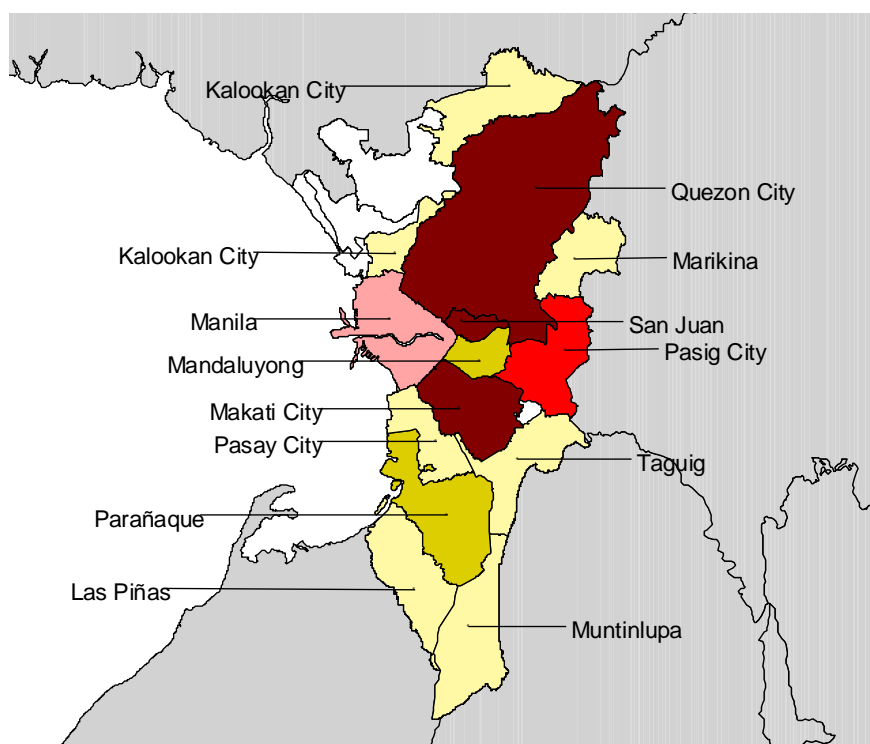
Age distribution of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines in #
18 January-16 March 2020 (N=140)



COVID-19 Cases by Region
18 January-16 March 2020 (N=140)



COVID-19 Cases in NCR by City
18 January-16 March 2020 (N=90)



Country readiness and response operations

Country-level coordination

All relevant guidelines, issuances, and documents from key government departments on actions taken so far are available online at bit.ly/COVIDPH.

The planned table top exercise to test the latest updated national contingency plan will no longer take place as the government is already in the middle of a full-blown response.

A draft costed response plan to feed into the government's efforts was shared with partners.

Many partners already supporting with risk communication, sharing of key messages, community engagement, hygiene promotion, provision of hand-washing and sanitary facilities in clinics and hospitals, training and supply of face masks, and tents for isolation and treatment of patients.

Risk communication and community engagement

Following the release of the guidelines for the Community Quarantine on Metro Manila, DOH requested assistance from UNICEF Philippines to address the public in the critical first 72 hours post announcement.

UNICEF Philippines supported DOH to hold its first-ever Facebook Live event to address the public and answer questions directly from the public and the media. Number of viewers peaked at 17,000 on DOH Facebook account. As of 15 March, the event has been viewed 543,000 times on DOH account; 77,400 viewers on Philippine Star; 230,000 on ABS-CBN and more on other online platforms of major news organizations. UNICEF provided technical and production assistance on priority messages and format of the public statement.

Majority of the feedback received praised the clarity of DOH OIC-Usec Vergeire's explanation and of the messages.

The three key messages delivered by DOH were:

1. Metro Manila is under General Community Quarantine and what this means;
2. Self-quarantine for 14 days if you exit Metro Manila before March 15; and
3. Self-quarantine for 14 days if you suspect you have COVID-19.

USAID-funded Breakthrough-Action (Johns Hopkins University Centre for Communication Programs (JHU-CCP)) are supporting DOH with risk communication activities for the general public and health workers. USAID is also assisting with the translation of CDC guidance into Tagalog.

All official DOH communication materials are available at: <https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCov/in-fographics> and <https://www.doh.gov.ph/COVID-19/Gabay-sa-Publiko>

Surveillance

DOH is continuing with intensified surveillance systems to actively look for clusters of cases of COVID-19. Epidemiological Surveillance Units (ESU) at municipal, city, provincial and regional level conduct case investigation and contact tracing, while continuously conduct Event-based (or rumour-based) investigations, searching for clusters of diseases of unknown origin and/or pneumonia-like in close collaboration with LGUs. This includes possible contacts of confirmed cases, using passenger manifests of public transport means including flights, ferries and buses, often led by the DOH' Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ).



DOH and UNICEF demonstrate the one-meter "social distancing" as one of the precautionary measures against COVID-19. ©DOH/Beverly Ho/2020

National laboratory system

Global shortage of key laboratory supplies is resulting in serious delays with delivery of urgently required reagents, primers, probes, extraction kits and transport media. As soon as supplies arrive, the five identified sub national laboratories (Baguio General Hospital and Medical Centre, San Lazaro Hospital in Manila, Lung Centre of the Philippines in Quezon City, Southern Philippines Medical Centre in Davao and Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Centre in Cebu) and the National Institute of Health Central Laboratory of the University of the Philippines (UP-NIH) can start testing for COVID-19, significantly expanding the current capacity of 300 tests per day.

No rapid testing kit has so far been certified by WHO or the DOH's FDA for use in the country, although many kits are being offered to the broader public.

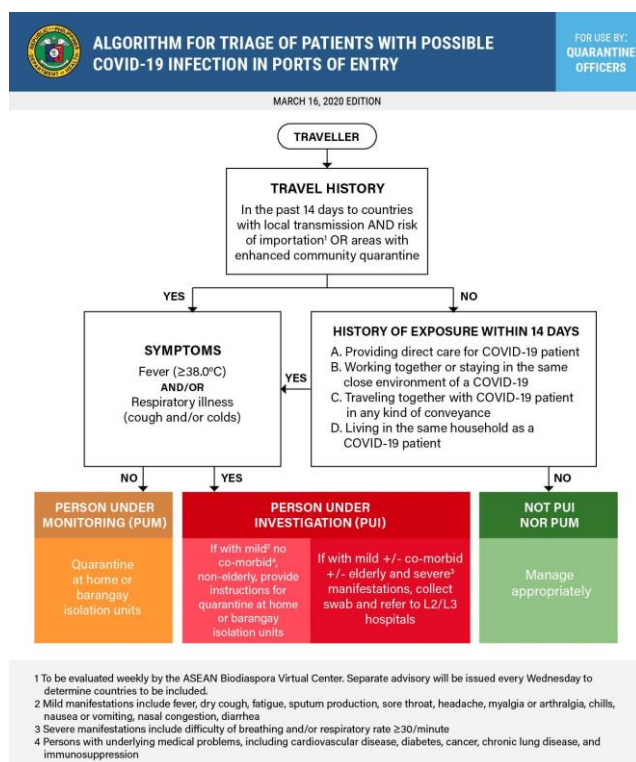
Infection prevention and control

On-the-job training on IPC and rational use of PPE will be conducted in priority hospitals for front-line health workers in the coming weeks. Training is supported by USAID through the Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPs), UNICEF and WHO.

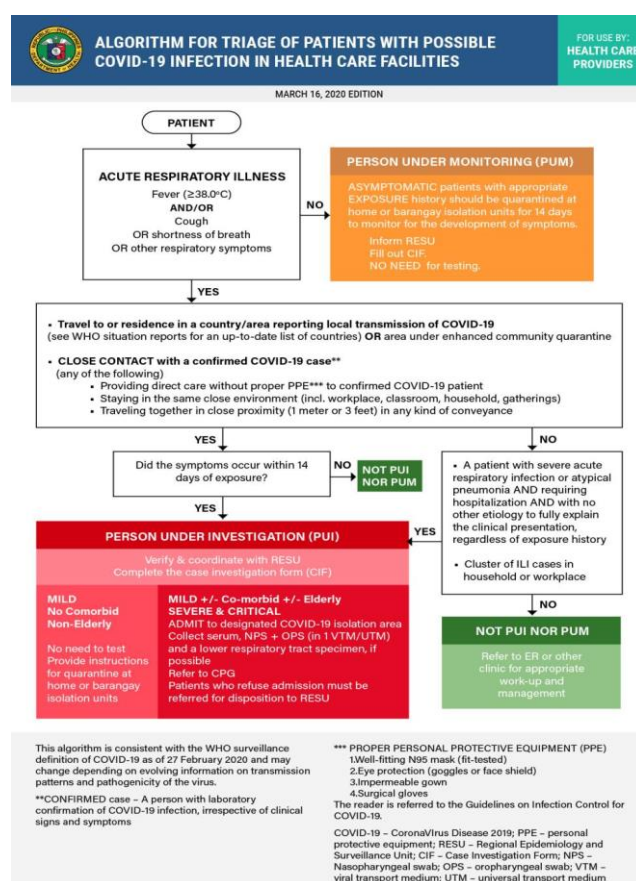
USAID-funded partners like the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Action Against Hunger (AAH), Catholic Relief Services (CRS) are stepping up their ongoing interventions in target areas in Mindanao for earthquake and conflict-affected populations, conducting training of rural health workers and volunteers on hygiene promotion and risk communication information dissemination, as well as construction of latrines, bathing cubicles and handwashing areas.

The Philippines Red Cross (through the IFRC Red Ready Regional Program) is deploying its volunteers to conduct hygiene promotion activities for prevention of COVID-19 in schools and communities in close coordination with local health offices.

Case management and continuity of essential services



f OfficialDOHgov @DOHgovph doh.gov.ph 8-651-7800 local 1149/1150



f OfficialDOHgov @DOHgovph doh.gov.ph 8-651-7800 local 1149/1150

Logistics, procurement, and supply management

WFP is on standby for demand-driven rapid response transportation of emergency health supplies and equipment, scale-up of the logistics hub network and logistics technical assistance in support of the Department for Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Who	What		When
PRC	medical tents for isolation and treatment	30	In country
UNFPA	Face masks	100,000	Donated to DOH
	Handheld thermometers	1,130	
UNICEF	Tents for triage and isolation purposes	44	20 received on 11 March 24 arrive on April 23
	Disinfection kits	44	In country
USAID	PPE	20,000	Awaiting delivery
WHO	PPE	12,000	Donated to DOH
	Laboratory supplies (details to follow)		partially donated to RITM and still awaiting delivery
World Vision	Mobile Storage Unit 10 x 32m	4	2 in Manila and 2 in Cebu
	Tents (child-friendly space) 7 x 6m	17	Clark, Pampanga

Resource mobilization

	Committed in USD*	Details
ADB	3,000,000	Support to DOH for COVID-19 control, including procurement of essential items such as laboratory supplies and equipment, ventilators, PPE, mobile hospitals
UNICEF	1,100,000	Risk Communications and Community Engagement; critical supplies and logistics, including PPE and disinfection supplies; addressing primary impacts of the pandemic on health, nutrition and WASH; and secondary impacts on children and families
USAID	2,700,000	Laboratory supplies, risk communication, IPC, surveillance, planning, training, WASH and community engagement
WHO	250,000	Laboratory supplies, PPEs, mobilization of experts, training of trainers and planning workshops

* Up to 16 March 2020

