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Department of Transportation and Communications
PUNONGHIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS
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HPCG/CG-3

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STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES
NUMBER 02-09

**PROCEDURES IN HANDLING INFLUENZA A (H1N1) FLU CASES ON BOARD
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC VESSELS**

I. REFERENCES:

- a. NDCC MEMORANDUM Nr 07 s. 2009 Subj: Designation of Regional Crisis Manager for Influenza A (H1N1) Flu.
- b. Minutes of the Conference of NDCC TMG Core Group Meeting on 5 May 2009 held at NDMC Conference Room CGEA, Quezon City.

II. PURPOSE: To establish procedures in the handling of Influenza A (H1N1) cases on board foreign and domestic vessels in port or anchorage and at sea in order to minimize the public health and socio-economic impact of influenza pandemic in the Philippines

III. DEFINITIONS:

- a. Influenza A (H1N1) – is caused by a novel virus that resulted from the reassortment of 4 viruses from pigs, humans and birds. It is a new virus detected in April 2009 in the US causing illness in people that may lead to death. This virus is spreading from person-to-person in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread.
- b. Bureau of Quarantine – an agency under the Department of Health, primarily responsible for quarantine activities.
- c. Boarding Procedures – a set of guidelines or protocol that guide maritime law enforcers in the safe approach and embarkation of a vessel to be boarded and inspected.
- d. Port State Control – inspection of foreign-flagged vessels calling at local ports to verify ship's compliance with international safety and labor standards.
- e. Maritime Law Enforcement (MARLEN) Operations – generally connotes the operations conducted by PCG personnel against violation of customs,

immigration, quarantine, fishery, forestry, dangerous drugs, firearms, piracy and environmental laws within the waters subject to the jurisdiction of the Philippines.

IV. PROCEDURES:

a. General

(1) Owners/agents of foreign ships calling Philippine ports shall be required to submit notice of arrival of the vessel at least 48 hours in advance. Likewise, the master of the vessel shall be required to submit the status crew and passengers.

(2) During MARLEN operations, maximum safety and precautionary measures shall be observed in dealing with vessel suspected of carrying persons infected with Influenza A (H1N1). Boarding Team preferably with Medical Team shall ensure the designation of isolation room for suspected Influenza A (H1N1) patient and coordinate with nearest BOQ office for further dispositive action through fastest available communications.

b. Vessel in Port or in Anchorage Area

(1) Board the vessel during the conduct of PSC/MARLEN only when clearance has already been issued by the BOQ Medical Team. However, continue to observe safety precaution measures against Influenza A (H1N1).

(2) Secure the quarantine area, if requested by BOQ or PPA.

c. Vessel Boarded at Sea During the Conduct of Maritime Patrols

(1) In the case of vessels coming from affected countries, Boarding Team shall be accompanied by PCG Medical Team and shall wear the prescribed body protection and medical equipment against Influenza A (H1N1).

(2) If a crew member or passenger is suspected or found positive with Influenza A (H1N1), the following listed guidelines in handling of Influenza A (H1N1) cases should be strictly followed:

- (a) Inform nearest BOQ office through fastest available communications for further dispositive action.
- (b) Let the crew/passenger stay at his cabin for isolation and administration.
- (c) Provide surgical mask for the patient.
- (d) Use surgical mask when caring for the patient.
- (e) Avoid close contact with the patient.
- (f) Notify immediately the port authorities of the port of destination.

- (g) Handle properly all contaminated clothing or other contaminated fomites with routine standard barrier precautions (use of masks, gloves, eye protection, gowns).
- (h) Always wash hands with soap and water after handling patient. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- (i). Upon arrival of the vessel, the protocol for arriving vessels shall be followed. BOQ will further assess the suspected passenger-patient for further dispositive action.

d. Signs and Symtoms in Humans:

- (1) Similar to the symtoms of regular flu such as:

Fever, Headache, Fatigue, Muscle or joint pains, Lack of appetite, Runny nose, Sore throat, and Cough.

- (2) Some cases have reported having diarrhea, nausea or vomiting.

e. Department of Health Hotline: +632-7111001 and +632-7111002 for immediate reporting of suspected Influenza (H1N1), flu-like illness and atypical pneumonia

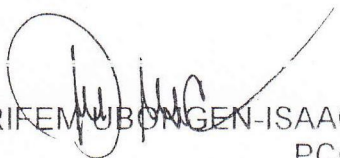
V. RESCISSION:

All publication in conflict with this SOP are herereby rescinded.

BY COMMAND OF ADMIRAL TAMAYO:

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