

## **Annex G. GUIDANCE ON COVID-19 TESTING AND REFERRAL FOR SYMPTOMATIC WORKERS**

- A. The IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines for Community Quarantine recommends that testing of all returning workers is not a requirement precedent to his or her return. Furthermore, the DOH emphasizes that implementing non-pharmaceutical interventions and other minimum health standards in the workplace is of paramount importance, as stated in the DTI and DOLE Joint Interim Guidelines on Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19.
- B. The DOH also underscores that screening of returning workers shall be based on symptoms and/or exposure.
- C. Producers may test workers for COVID-19. Testing kits used and procured shall be the responsibility of the producer. However, DOH Protocols should be followed for the testing of workers and the interpretation of results. For the procurement of tests and further guidelines, producers may refer to the following:
1. **DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-0180<sup>11</sup>**: Revised Interim Guidelines on Expanded Testing for COVID-19, April 16, 2020
  2. **DOH Administrative Order No. 2020-0014<sup>12</sup>**: Guidelines in Securing a License to Operate a COVID-19 Testing Laboratory in the Philippines, April 7, 2020
  3. **DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-0220<sup>13</sup>**: Interim Guidelines on the Return-to-Work, May 11, 2020
- D. COVID-19 Expanded Testing, defined as the testing of individuals who are at risk of contracting COVID-19 infection, may be administered to suspect cases or individuals with a relevant history of travel and exposure (or contact) whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, provided that there is adequate testing capacity.
- E. Workers with a negative result for COVID-19 may be allowed to continue to work; however, when initially tested negative but developed symptoms, employees must be tested accordingly
1. If found positive, all close contacts of returning employees and workers shall be isolated and tested accordingly, as stated in DOH DM 2020-0180
  2. Employers shall report results to DOH
- F. For FDA-approved rapid antibody tests, workers who test IgM negative and IgG negative or IgG positive regardless of IgM results may continue to work.
1. Workers who test IgM positive but IgG negative on the first test shall be isolated for 14 days and repeat testing on the 14th day. If the results are still IgM positive and IgG negative, the quarantine will be extended in seven-day increments, and testing will be repeated. If persistently IgM positive but IgG negative for two consecutive retesting after the first 14 day period, potential false positives may be considered, and the worker must be referred to an infectious disease specialist.

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<sup>11</sup> DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-018

<https://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/health-update/dm2020-0180.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> DOH Administrative Order No. 2020-014

<https://hfsrb.doh.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ao2020-0014.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-0220

<https://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/health-update/dm2020-0220.pdf>

2. Employers shall submit to [hrtucovid19results@gmail.com](mailto:hrtucovid19results@gmail.com) the results of the rapid antibody tests among the sample representatives using the format available on [bit.ly/RDTReportingForm](https://bit.ly/RDTReportingForm).

- G. A Production Policy on COVID-19 testing must be formulated and agreed upon by employers and workers in conformity with the DOH protocols.
- H. For symptomatic workers who present symptoms at the workplace or production site, the producer/employer must refer and transport the workers to the appropriate healthcare facilities.

**Guide to the Appropriate Facility for Each Type of Patient**

Type of Patient	Recommended facility
<b>All patients</b>	Primary care facility for triaging, via telemedicine, if available
<b>Asymptomatic</b> with close contact	Home quarantine for 14 days <b>OR</b> Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facility for quarantine of 14 days
<b>Symptomatic, mild</b> classified as Suspect, Probable or Confirmed COVID-19 case	Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facility for isolation of 14 days (preferred) <b>OR</b>  Level 1 Hospital or Infirmary <b>OR</b>  Home isolation provided with clearance from the patient’s attending physician
<b>Symptomatic, severe, or critical</b> classified as Suspect, Probable, or Confirmed COVID-19 case  <b>Symptomatic, mild</b> , classified as Suspect, Probable or Confirmed COVID-19 case <i>plus any of the two:</i> (1) ≥ 60 years old (2) comorbidities	COVID-19 Referral Hospital <b>OR</b>  COVID-19 -Accepting Level 2 or 3 Hospital
<b>Clinically recovered</b> Suspect, Probable, and Confirmed COVID-19 cases awaiting completion of quarantine period	Level 1 hospital, Infirmary, or Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities selected for Step-down Care

More information on these are provided under **DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-0178**<sup>14</sup> *Interim Guidelines on Health Care Provider Networks during COVID-19 Pandemic*.

<sup>14</sup> DOH Department Memorandum No. 2020-0178  
<https://www.doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/health-update/dm2020-0178.pdf>