



DECLARATION OF MEASLES OUTBREAK AND LOW IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE

WHEREAS, the Department of Health holds the overall technical authority on health as it is a national health policy-maker and regulatory institution;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health has been receiving reports from its offices and hospitals in the different regions of an alarming increase in measles cases;

WHEREAS, measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus, which can be transferred from person-to-person by sneezing, coughing, and close personal contact;

WHEREAS, as of February 10, 2019, a total of 4302 measles cases nationwide with 70 deaths since the start of the year, 122 percent higher compared to the same period last year (CFR of 2 percent). Five regions have the highest number of measles cases.

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region reported 1296 cases with 18 deaths (1725 percent increase compared to 2018); Region IV-A (CALABARZON) had 1086 cases with 25 deaths (2917 percent increase compared to 2018); Region III (Central Luzon) had 481 cases with 6 deaths (1045 percent increase compared to 2018); Region VI (Western Visayas) had 212 cases with 3 deaths (910 percent increase compared to 2018); and Region X (Northern Mindanao) with 109 cases with 2 deaths (2625 percent increase compared to 2018).

WHEREAS, the Department of Health has also seen a decline in vaccine confidence and a rise in cases of vaccine-preventable diseases, like measles;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, Secretary of Health of the Philippines, declare an **OUTBREAK OF MEASLES** in several regions in the country which is a cause for national alarm.

All bureaus, units, offices, hospitals, and attached agencies of the Department of Health are hereby strictly enjoined to immediately enforce emergency protocols on heightened monitoring of suspected and confirmed cases of measles, as well as on immediate and full medical treatment and assistance therefor.

All personnel of the Department are directed to engage in a massive nationwide information dissemination campaign, and advise and encourage the general public to immediately seek medical treatment at the slightest symptom of this highly contagious disease.

In coordination with the concerned LGUs, all personnel of the Department must undertake a more vigorous and wider immunization and disease-prevention campaign and reach out to the vulnerable sectors of society, consistent with existing laws and regulations of this Department.

All units of this Department are hereby authorized and directed to coordinate with and seek the assistance of all concerned LGUs and appropriate government agencies in the implementation of the directives contained herein.

Use of all available resources of the Department, and approved leaves of DOH personnel, must be reviewed and realigned towards the foregoing goals, consistent with government procurement and accounting rules and civil service rules.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Department of Health – Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

DONE, in the City of Manila, this 11th day of February in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.


FRANCISCO E. DUQUE III, MD MSc
Secretary of Health