



ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020- 005

GUIDELINES GOVERNING THE OPERATIONS OF DOT-ACCREDITED RESTAURANTS UNDER A COMMUNITY QUARANTINE

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act 9593 or the *Tourism Act of 2009*, the Department of Tourism (DOT) is mandated to promulgate rules and regulations governing the operation and activities of all tourism enterprises, including Restaurants;

WHEREAS, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) *Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine* allows for the operations of private establishments involved in the provision of essential goods and services and activities in the value chain related to food production, such as Restaurants, subject to limitations as to operating capacity and services offered;

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that the operations of restaurants under Community Quarantine is in accordance with Minimum Public Health Standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of the foregoing, these *Guidelines Governing the Operations of DOT-Accredited Restaurants Under a Community Quarantine* are hereby issued.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Short Title. – This Order shall be known as the “*Guidelines on Operations of DOT-Accredited Restaurants under Community Quarantines.*”

Section 2. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of these Guidelines, the term:

- (a) “Accommodation Establishments” refers to establishments operating primarily for accommodation purposes including, but not limited to, hotels, resorts, apartment hotels, tourist inns, motels, pension houses, private homes used for homestay, ecolodges, serviced apartments, condotels, and bed and breakfast facilities.
- (b) “Community Quarantine” refers to the restriction of movement within, into, or out of the area of quarantine of individuals, large groups of people, or communities designed to reduce the likelihood of transmission of COVID-19 among persons in and to persons outside the affected area (*IATF Omnibus Guidelines*).
- (c) “Enhanced Community Quarantine” or ECQ refers to the implementation of temporary measures imposing stringent limitations on movement and transportation of people, strict regulation of operating industries, provision of food and essential services, and heightened presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols.
- (d) “General Community Quarantine” or GCQ refers to the implementation of temporary measures limiting movement and transportation, regulation of operating industries, and presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols.
- (e) “Minimum Public Health Standards” refers to guidelines set by the Department of Health (DOH), as well as sector-relevant guidelines to aid all sectors in implementing non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI), which refer to public health measures that do not involve vaccines, medications, or other pharmaceutical interventions, which individuals

and communities can carry out in order to reduce transmission rates, contact rates, and the duration of infectiousness of individuals in the population to mitigate COVID-19 (*IATF Omnibus Guidelines*)

- (f) "Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine" or MECQ refers to the transition phase between ECQ and GCQ, when these temporary measures are relaxed: stringent limiting movement and transportation of people, strict regulation of operating industries, provision of food and essential services, and heightened presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols become less necessary
- (g) "Modified General Community Quarantine" or MGCQ refers to the transition phase between GCQ and New Normal, when these temporary measures are relaxed: limiting movement and transportation, the regulation of operating industries, and the presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine become less necessary.
- (h) "Restaurant" refers to any establishment that prepares and serves meals or refreshments to the public for a fee.
- (i) "Operational capacity" refers to such a number of employees or workers who can be permitted or required to physically report to work on-site in a particular office or establishment. (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*)
- (j) "Physical distancing" or "Social Distancing" refers to the strict maintenance of a distance of at least one (1) meter radius between persons in a public setting.
- (k) "Seating Capacity" refers to such number of persons who may be accommodated for dine-in operations.

Section 3. Coverage. This Order shall apply to all DOT-Accredited Restaurants and Restaurants in DOT-Accredited Accommodation Establishments in areas under Community Quarantine.

II. OPERATIONS UNDER ENHANCED AND MODIFIED ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE

Section 4. Operational Capacity under ECQ and MECQ. Restaurants in Accommodation Establishments shall operate through an in-house skeleton workforce for the preparation of packed meals for distribution to guests, or food orders for take-out and delivery. DOT-Accredited Restaurants may operate at 50% Operational Capacity for food preparation activities for take-out and delivery only. (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).

Section 5. Dine-In Operations Under ECQ and MECQ. Dine-in operations of Restaurants in Accommodation Establishments and DOT-Accredited restaurants shall be strictly prohibited in areas placed under ECQ and MECQ. (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*)

III. OPERATIONS UNDER GENERAL COMMUNITY QUARANTINE

Section 6. Operational Capacity under GCQ. Restaurants in Accommodation Establishments may operate through an in-house skeleton workforce. (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*). DOT-Accredited Restaurants may operate at full Operational Capacity (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).

Section 7. Dine-In Operations Under GCQ. Dine-in operations of Restaurants in Accommodation Establishments are allowed at thirty percent (30%) Seating Capacity, provided that it allows for physical distancing, and up to 9:00 p.m. (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*). Dine-in operations of DOT-Accredited restaurants may be undertaken at 50% Seating Capacity, subject to strict compliance with physical distancing protocols (*DTI MC No. 2020-39*).

IV. OPERATIONS UNDER MODIFIED GENERAL COMMUNITY QUARANTINE

Section 8. Operational Capacity under MGCQ. Restaurants in Accommodation Establishments may operate at 50% Operational Capacity. DOT-Accredited Restaurants may operate at full Operational Capacity. *(IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines)*.

Section 9. Dine-In Operations Under MGCQ. Dine-in operations of Restaurants in Accommodation Establishments and DOT-Accredited restaurants may be undertaken at 75% Seating Capacity, subject to strict compliance with physical distancing protocols *(DTI MC No. 2020-39)*.

V. OTHER PROVISIONS

Section 10. Suppletory Application of DOT Memorandum Circular No. 2020-004-A. As regards health and safety protocols and guidelines, DOT Memorandum Circular No. 2020-004-A shall apply by analogy or in suppletory character, and insofar as it is not inconsistent with any provision herein

Section 11. Compliance with other relevant issuances. Restaurants shall comply with the relevant issuances and guidelines from the DOH, Department of Trade and Industry, and other sector-relevant agencies, as well as rules and regulations imposed by the local government unit (LGU) having jurisdiction over the Restaurants, which are deemed to apply to this Order suppletorily.

Section 12. Penalties. Any violation of this Order may subject the DOT-Accredited Restaurant to the appropriate fines and penalties, including revocation of its DOT accreditation, in accordance with relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

Section 13. Separability Clause. If any portion or provision of this Order is declared null and void or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

Section 14. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain effective until otherwise superseded, amended, or repealed accordingly.

For guidance and strict compliance.

13 September 2020


BERNADETTE ROMULO-PUYAT
Secretary 

