



ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020- 009

**GUIDELINES ON THE OPERATIONS OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS SUCH AS
PARKS, NATURAL SITES, HISTORICAL LANDMARKS, AND MUSEUMS
UNDER A MODIFIED GENERAL COMMUNITY QUARANTINE**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act No. 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;

WHEREAS, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) *Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine* (the "IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines") provides that Category IV industries, which include Tourist Attractions, shall be allowed to operate under a Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) at a maximum of fifty percent (50%) operational capacity;

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that the operations of Tourist Attractions in areas under MGCQ are in accordance with Minimum Public Health Standards and capacity limitations set by the IATF;

NOW, THEREFORE, in view of the foregoing, these Guidelines on the Operations of Tourist Attractions under a Modified General Community Quarantine are hereby issued.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Short Title. – This Order shall be known as the "*Guidelines on Tourist Attractions under MGCQ.*"

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

- a) "Contact tracing" refers to the identification, listing, and follow-up of persons who may have come into close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case (*DOH DM No. 2020-0189*).
- 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-EID 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 (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).
- 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 (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).

- e) “Historical Landmark” refers to a structure that has significant historical, architectural, or cultural meaning and that has been given legal protection from alteration and destruction.
- f) “Interzonal movement” refers to the movement of people, goods and services across areas between provinces, highly urbanized cities, and independent component cities under different community quarantine classifications. For this purpose, the National Capital Region shall be considered as one area. Provided, that movements to and from areas under granular lockdowns shall be considered as interzonal even if within the same provinces or highly urbanized city. (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*)
- g) “Intrazonal movement” refers to the movement of people, goods and services between provinces, highly urbanized cities, and independent component cities under the same community quarantine classification, without transiting through an area placed under a different classification. For this purpose, the National Capital Region shall be considered as one area. (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*)
- h) “Management” shall refer to the owner, proprietor, manager, supervisor, administrator or other officer with control and supervision of operations of the Tourist Attraction.
- i) “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-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).
- j) “Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine” or MECQ refers to the transition phase between ECQ and GCQ, when the following temporary measures are relaxed and become less necessary: 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 (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).
- k) “Modified General Community Quarantine” or MGCQ refers to the transition phase between GCQ and the New Normal, when the following temporary measures are relaxed and become less necessary: limiting movement and transportation, the regulation of operating industries, and the presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).
- l) “Museum” refers to an institutional establishment where a collection of valuable objects and artifacts on history and culture, arts and sciences are put on exhibition for the general public.
- m) “Natural Sites” refer to natural features, geological and physiographical formations and delineated areas that constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants and sites of value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty. It includes nature parks and reserves, zoos, aquaria and botanical gardens.
- n) “New Normal” refers to the emerging behaviors, situations, and minimum public health standards that will be institutionalized in common or routine practices and remain even

after the pandemic while the disease is not totally eradicated through means such as widespread immunization (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).

- o) "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*).
- p) "Parks" refer to an area of natural, semi-natural or planted space set aside for human enjoyment and recreation or for the protection of wildlife or natural habitats. Theme parks and other amusement parks shall be considered part of this definition.
- q) "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.
- r) "Theme Park" refers to an amusement park with defined and designed space that features themed rides and attractions.
- s) "Tourist Attraction" refers to a place of interest where tourists visit, typically for its inherent and/or exhibited natural or cultural value, historical significance, natural or man-made features, offering leisure and education.

Section 3. Coverage. – This Order shall apply to all Tourist Attractions which shall include, but is not limited to Parks, Natural Sites, Museums, and Historical Landmarks, operating in areas under MGCQ.

II. TOURIST ATTRACTIONS UNDER OTHER LEVELS OF COMMUNITY QUARANTINE

Section 4. Operations under ECQ, MECQ, and GCQ. The operations of Tourist Attractions in areas declared to be under ECQ, MECQ, and GCQ shall be strictly prohibited.

III. TOURIST ATTRACTIONS UNDER MGCQ

Section 5. Visitor Policy. Individuals aged fifteen (15) years old to sixty-five (65) years old, except those with comorbidities or are currently pregnant, shall be allowed to visit Tourist Attractions, subject to the age restrictions, if any, of the Local Government Unit (LGU) where the Tourist Attraction is located.

Section 6. Capacity Limit for Tourist Attractions. Tourist Attractions located in areas declared to be under MGCQ may be allowed to operate at a maximum of fifty percent (50%) operational capacity, subject to regulations of the LGU concerned.

Section 7. Interzonal and Intrazonal Movement. The rules on interzonal and intrazonal movement under the IATF-EID Guidelines shall be observed. For this purpose, Tourist Attractions in areas declared to be under MGCQ shall only accommodate visitors from areas under GCQ and MGCQ, subject to the reasonable regulations imposed by the LGU where the Tourist Attraction is located.

Section 8. Mass gatherings under MGCQ. Mass gatherings within Tourist Attractions under MGCQ shall be allowed, *provided* that participants shall be limited to fifty percent (50%) of the seat or venue capacity.

Section 9. Recreational activities. Indoor and outdoor non-contact sports and other forms of exercise such as but not limited to walking, jogging, running, biking, golf, swimming, tennis, badminton, equestrian, range shooting, and skateboarding are allowed, *provided*, that

the Minimum Public Health Standards such as the wearing of face masks and face shields, maintenance of physical distancing protocols, and no sharing of equipment where applicable, are observed.

Section 10. Strict Compliance with Protocols on Contact Tracing. The Management of the Tourist Attraction shall strictly comply with the protocols established by the DOH and the respective local government units (LGUs) for contact tracing of individuals in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case. The Management shall exert every effort to assist and cooperate with the government authorities concerned (*DTI-DOLE JMC No. 20-04-A*).

Section 11. Health and Safety Protocols and Standards. As regards health and safety protocols and standards in the operation of Tourist Attractions, the relevant provisions Department of Tourism Memorandum Circular No. 2020 - 011 shall apply by analogy or in suppletory character, and insofar as they are not inconsistent with any provision herein.

IV. OTHER PROVISIONS

Section 12. Compliance with other relevant issuances. Tourist Attractions shall comply with the relevant issuances and guidelines from the IATF-EID, DOH, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and other sector-relevant agencies, relating to Minimum Public Health Standards.

Section 13. Local Government Unit Concurrence. Notwithstanding compliance with the foregoing guidelines, operations of Tourist Attractions and interzonal travel thereto shall be subject to applicable restrictions, rules, or ordinances of the LGU where the Tourist Attraction is located.

Section 14. Penalties. Any violation of the provisions of this Order may subject the Management of the Tourist Attraction to the appropriate fines and penalties, including the revocation of the Tourist Attraction's DOT accreditation, if any, in accordance with relevant laws, rules and regulations.

Section 15. Separability. If any provision of this Order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 16. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain effective until otherwise superseded, amended, or repealed accordingly.

For guidance and strict compliance

21 December 2020


BERNADETTE ROMULO-PUYAT
Secretary 

