Republic of the Philippines
National Irrigation Administration
Central Office

NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
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By:
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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 32
Series of 2022

TO : **THE SENIOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATORS, THE REGIONAL / DEPARTMENT / PROJECT MANAGERS, DIVISION MANAGERS, AND ALL OTHER CONCERNED**

SUBJECT : **AMENDED PROTOCOLS ON TESTING, QUARANTINE, AND ISOLATION FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE**

Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID), in its resolution last February 27, 2022, has lowered the Alert Level System category of the National Capital Region (NCR) and 38 other areas of the country to Alert Level 1, while 66 other areas were placed under Alert Level 2, effective March 1 – 15, 2022.

The following amendments/modifications on the existing protocols, geared to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 infection within NIA offices nationwide and among its employees, are hereby implemented.

TESTING FOR TRAVELS/VISITS

1. Testing for NIA personnel, who will travel, whether official (with valid travel order) or personal, local or abroad, ***upon their return, or before they report back to their respective offices;***
   - Fully vaccinated personnel*: ***no need for Rapid Antigen Test (RAT)***
   - Partially vaccinated personnel**: ***must undergo RAT***
   - Unvaccinated personnel***: ***must undergo RAT and must present a negative RT-PCR test done within 14 days (based on MC 123 series 2021)***

   RAT prior to the travel is no longer needed, **UNLESS** the destination NIA office/local government unit (LGU) or country requires such test.

   - Before reporting back to work, post-travel personnel ***must guarantee*** that they are not exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and are advised to observe, at all times, the minimum public health standards (MPHS).
   - Should the post-travel personnel develop symptoms within 14 days from the date of arrival, ***RAT must be done***, within 3-5 days from start of symptoms, and *regardless of test results*, should immediately isolate accordingly, based on their vaccination status.
   - Should the post-travel personnel ***tests positive on RAT***, the said personnel must isolate accordingly based on their vaccination status.

   Testing (RAT) for NIA employees on official travel is shouldered by the particular NIA office they belong to; while for personal travels, testing will be at the expense of the traveler (NIA personnel).

2. NIA officials and employees, regardless of vaccination status, who will attend meetings in oversight government agencies, with approved memorandum and as a protocol/requirement of the oversight government agencies, ***must undergo testing*** (depending on the kind of test required by the government agency).

3. NIA officials and employees, regardless of vaccination status, who have signs and symptoms of COVID-19, ***must undergo RAT*** within 3-5 days, from the onset of symptoms, and *regardless of the test result,* should immediately isolate accordingly, based on their vaccination status.

4. Asymptomatic NIA officials and employees who have direct/close contact/first degree exposure to a CONFIRMED COVID-19 case, ***need not* be tested**, but must quarantine accordingly, based on their vaccination status; should symptoms develop within 14 days from the date of last contact/exposure, they ***must undergo RAT*** within 3-5 days, from the onset of symptoms, and *regardless of the test result,* should immediately isolate accordingly, based on their vaccination status.

5. NIA-Regional Offices (NIA-RO) personnel, on official business to NIA-Central Office (CO), who will stay at the NIA-CO dormitories/quarters, before they are allowed access to such facilities, ***must present;***
   - For fully vaccinated individuals* - ***Vaccination Card***
   - For partially vaccinated individuals** - ***Negative RAT - result must not be more than 48 hours prior to their intended time of check-in*** - testing must be done in their respective regions
   - For unvaccinated individuals*** - ***Negative RT-PCR (based on MC No.123 series of 2021) and RAT - test must not be more than 14 days (RT-PCR) and 48 hours (RAT) prior to their intended date/time of check-in*** - testing must be done in their respective regions

6. NIA-RO personnel/visitors/vendors, who will conduct official business/meeting/product demonstrations to NIA-CO personnel within the NIA-CO premises, ***must present;***
   - For fully vaccinated individuals* - ***Vaccination Card***
   - For partially vaccinated ** and unvaccinated individuals***) - ***Negative RAT - result must not be more than 48 hours prior to the intended time of meeting/presentation*** - NIA-RO personnel must have their tests done in their regions prior to travel. Visitors/vendors must have their RAT done in DOH accredited laboratories.

7. Testing (RAT) on NIA-CO personnel on official business, is shouldered by NIA-CO; non-NIA-CO personnel (NIA-RO personnel/visitors/vendors) ***may avail*** of RAT at the NIA-CO clinic, ***for a fee.***

QUARANTINE AND TESTING PROTOCOLS - For individuals who are close/direct contact of a probable (Antigen Test +) OR confirmed (RT-PCR +) COVID-19 patient.

NIA PERSONNEL		QUARANTINE	TESTING AND REINTEGRATION
Asymptomatic close/direct contact/exposure	Fully Vaccinated*	No work restrictions	No testing required but with symptom monitoring for 14 days, and shall strictly observe Minimum Public Health Standards (MPHS) which includes wearing well-fitted masks, physical distancing, among others.
	Partially Vaccinated**	At least 14 days from exposure	No testing required; if personnel remain asymptomatic on the 15th day, may report back to work and shall observe MPHS.
	Unvaccinated***	At least 14 days from exposure	No testing required; if personnel remain asymptomatic on the 15th day, may report back to work. ***+++ MC No.123 Series 2021*** still applies.
	+ Should symptoms develop within 14 days from the date of last contact/exposure, they ***must undergo RAT*** within 3-5 days, from the onset of symptoms, and *regardless of the test result*, should immediately isolate accordingly, based on their vaccination status		

ISOLATION AND TESTING PROTOCOLS – For individuals who are probable (Antigen Test +) or confirmed (RT-PCR +) COVID-19 cases OR those who tested negative on either test, but with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 infection.

NIA PERSONNEL		ISOLATION	TESTING AND REINTEGRATION
Asymptomatic case	Fully Vaccinated*	At least 7 days from positive Antigen/RT-PCR Test (based on sample collection date)	May report back to work on the 8th day, provided he/she remained asymptomatic; ***no testing needed***. Must continue symptom monitoring until the 14th day from positive test, and

			shall strictly observe MPHS.
	Partially Vaccinated**	At least 10 days from positive test Antigen/RT-PCR Test (based on sample collection date)	***RAT on the 11th day***; provided he/she remained asymptomatic. If negative, report back to work, but with symptom monitoring until the 14th day from positive test, and shall strictly observe MPHS. If positive, ***Rapid Antibody Test (RAbT) must be done*** - If only IgM (+), isolation protocols shall apply. - If only IgG (+) or both IgM and IgG (+), may report back to work.
	Unvaccinated***	At least 10 days from positive test Antigen/RT-PCR Test (based on sample collection date)	***RAT on the 11th day***; provided he/she remained asymptomatic If negative, report back to work, but with symptom monitoring until the 14th day from positive test, and shall strictly observe MPHS. If positive, ***Rapid Antibody Test (RAbT) must be done*** - If only IgM (+), isolation protocols shall apply. - If only IgG (+) or both IgM and IgG (+), may report back to work. ***+++ MC No.123 Series 2021*** still applies.
	+ Should symptoms develop within 14 days from the date of positive test, they ***must undergo RAT*** within 3-5 days, from the onset of symptoms,		

	and *regardless of the test result*, should immediately isolate accordingly, based on their vaccination status		
Symptomatic, suspect, probable or confirmed case with MILD symptoms	Fully Vaccinated*	At least 7 days from start of symptoms or positive Antigen/RT-PCR Test (based on sample collection date)	***RAT on the 8th day***; provided he/she shall not develop fever for the last 24 hours without the use of any antipyretic medications, and shall have improvement of respiratory symptoms. If negative, report back to work, but with symptom monitoring until the 14th day from start of symptoms or positive test, and shall strictly observe MPHS. If positive, ***Rapid Antibody Test (RAbT) must be done*** - If only IgM (+), isolation protocols shall apply. - If only IgG (+) or both IgM and IgG (+), may report back to work.
	Partially Vaccinated**	At least 10 days from start of symptoms or positive test Antigen/RT-PCR Test (based on sample collection date)	***RAT on the 11th day***; provided he/she shall not develop fever for the last 24 hours without the use of any antipyretic medications, and shall have improvement of respiratory symptoms. If negative, report back to work, but with symptom monitoring until the 14th day from start of symptoms or positive test, and shall strictly observe MPHS. If positive, ***Rapid Antibody Test (RAbT) must be done*** - If only IgM (+), isolation protocols shall apply.

			- If only IgG (+) or both IgM and IgG (+), may report back to work.
	Unvaccinated***	At least 10 days from start of symptoms or positive test Antigen/RT-PCR Test (based on sample collection date)	***RAT on the 11th day***; provided he/she shall not develop fever for the last 24 hours without the use of any antipyretic medications, and shall have improvement of respiratory symptoms. If negative, report back to work, but with symptom monitoring until the 14th day from start of symptoms or positive test, and shall strictly observe MPHS. If positive, ***Rapid Antibody Test (RAbT) must be done*** - If only IgM (+), isolation protocols shall apply. - If only IgG (+) or both IgM and IgG (+), may report back to work. ***+++ MC No.123 Series 2021*** still applies.
	++ If symptoms persist till the end of the required isolation period, isolation must be extended to 14 days.		
Symptomatic, suspect, probable or confirmed case with MODERATE symptoms	Regardless of vaccination status Must consult a specialist doctor (internist/ pulmonologist/ID S -either via Telemedicine or Face-to-Face)	At least 10 days from start of symptoms or positive test Antigen/RT-PCR Test (based on sample collection date), or depending on doctor's recommendation.	***RT-PCR Test on the 11th day***; provided he/she shall not develop fever for the last 24 hours without the use of any antipyretic medications, and shall have improvement of respiratory symptoms ***OR*** presentation of a medical clearance from the attending physician. If negative, may report back to work, but with symptom monitoring until the 14th day from start of

			symptoms or positive test, and shall strictly observe MPHS. If positive, ***Rapid Antibody Test (RAbT) must be done*** - If only IgM (+), isolation protocols shall apply. - If only IgG (+) or both IgM and IgG (+), may report back to work. ***+++ MC No. 123 Series 2021*** still applies for unvaccinated individuals.
Symptomatic, suspect, probable or confirmed case with SEVERE and CRITICAL symptoms	Regardless of vaccination status Must be confined in a hospital/Seek immediate treatment in a hospital.	At least 21 days from start of symptoms or positive test Antigen/RT-PCR Test (based on sample collection date), or depending on doctor's recommendation.	***RT-PCR Test on the 22nd day***; ***AND*** presentation of a medical clearance from the attending physician. If negative, may report back to work, and shall strictly observe MPHS. If positive, ***Rapid Antibody Test (RAbT) must be done*** - If only IgM (+), isolation protocols shall apply. - If only IgG (+) or both IgM and IgG (+), may report back to work. ***+++ MC No. 123 Series 2021*** still applies for unvaccinated individuals.
Immunocompromised ****Autoimmune disease, HIV, Cancers Malignancy, Transplant Patients, Undergoing steroid treatment, Patients with poor prognosis/ Bed-ridden patients***	Regardless of vaccination status Must consult attending physician.	At least 21 days from start of symptoms or positive test Antigen/RT-PCR Test (based on sample collection date), or depending on attending physician's recommendation.	***RT-PCR Test on the 22nd day***; ***AND*** presentation of a medical clearance from the attending physician. If negative, may report back to work, and shall strictly observe MPHS. If positive, ***Rapid Antibody Test (RAbT) must be done***

			- If only IgM (+), isolation protocols shall apply. - If only IgG (+) or both IgM and IgG (+), may report back to work. ***+++ MC No. 123 Series 2021*** still applies for unvaccinated individuals.

**Fully vaccinated are individuals who:*

> received booster shot after receiving any COVID-19 vaccine, and 14 days have already lapsed after the booster administration

> received 2 doses of a 2-dose-vaccine, and is not yet eligible to receive a booster shot (more than 14 days and less than 90 days from the administration of the 2nd dose)

> received 1 dose of a 1-dose-vaccine and is not yet eligible to receive a booster shot (more than 14 days and less than 60 days from the administration of the 1-dose-vaccine)

***Partially vaccinated are individuals who:*

> received booster shot after receiving any COVID-19 vaccine, and 14 days have NOT YET lapsed after the booster administration

> received 2nd dose of a 2-dose-vaccine, and 14 days have NOT YET lapsed after the administration of the 2nd dose

> received 1 dose of a 2-dose-vaccine, but has not yet received the 2nd dose and the date of the 2nd dose has not yet lapsed

> received 1 dose of a 1-dose-vaccine, and 14 days have NOT YET lapsed after the administration of the 1-dose-vaccine

**** Unvaccinated are individuals who:*

> received 2 doses of a 2-dose-vaccine, but has not received a booster shot and 90 days have already lapsed after the administration of the 2nd dose

> received 1 dose of a 2-dose-vaccine, but has not yet received the 2nd dose and the date of the 2nd dose has already lapsed

> received 1 dose of a 1-dose-vaccine, but has not received a booster shot and 60 days have already lapsed after the administration of the 1-dose-vaccine

> did not receive any COVID-19 vaccine

Other guidelines and protocols, relative to the control and prevention of COVID-19, not mentioned in this memorandum circular are still in effect.

For strict compliance.

GEN RICARDO R VISAYA (Ret)
Administrator

Date: 03-21-2022