



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 18, 2021

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2021 - DOH

FOR : DIRECTORS OF CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHD); DIVISION CHIEFS OF CHD-REGULATIONS, LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION AND HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REGULATORY BUREAU; MINISTER OF HEALTH — BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO REGULATION, LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT CLUSTER; AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Monitoring of Compliance to the Implementation of the Mandated Price Range for Reverse Transcription Polymerase Reaction in all COVID-19 Testing Laboratories

Pursuant to Section VI. General Guidelines of the Department of Health-Department of Trade and Industry Joint Administrative Order (DOH-DTI JAO) 2020-0001 titled "Guidelines for the Implementation of Executive Order No. 118 on Regulation of Prices for COVID-19 Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) Testing and Test Kits," "*The DOH, with the DTI, shall set the price range of COVID-19 testing and test kits to ensure quality of service, affordability, and availability to patients and consumers.*" Under this DOH-DTI JAO, the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB), the Center for Health Development Regulation, Licensing and Enforcement Division (CHD-RLED) and the Ministry of Health Bangsamoro in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Regulation, Licensing and Enforcement Cluster (MOH-BARMM RLEC) shall monitor the cost and the compliance to the implementation of the mandated price range for Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Reaction (RT-PCR) in all COVID-19 Testing Laboratories.

Further, in Department Circular (DC) No. 2020-0391 or the "Price Range for COVID-19 Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Reaction (RT-PCR) Testing," dated November 27, 2020, the price for all DOH-licensed COVID-19 testing laboratories nationwide is as follows: for public facilities the price is set at PhP 3,800, while for private facilities, the price is from PhP 4,500 to PhP 5,000, inclusive of all costs.

Various reports on the overpricing of the COVID-19 tests have reached the HFSRB. However, due to the current pandemic, the availability of transportation posed a great challenge in the performance of the monitoring function of the regulatory officers of HFSRB.

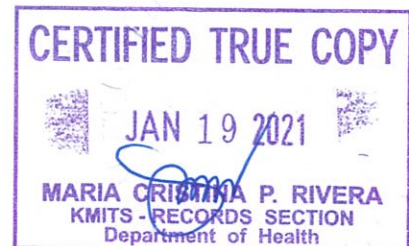


In view of the above, the monitoring of price range for COVID-19 tests in all DOH-licensed COVID-19 testing laboratories, whether free-standing or hospital based, is hereby delegated to the CHD-RLED and the MOH-BARMM RLEC.

For compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

DR. MARIA ROSARIO S. VERGEIRE, MPH, CESO IV
OIC – Undersecretary of Health
Health Regulation Team



III. MONITORING FINDING:

The facility is compliant with the relevant provisions stipulated in DOH-DTI **Joint Administrative Order (A.O.) No. 2020-0001** titled "Guidelines for the Implementation of Executive Order No. 118 on Regulation of Prices for COVID-19 Reverse Transcription- Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) Testing and Test Kits" **and**

Department Circular No. 2020-0391 titled "Price Range for COVID-19 Reverse Transcription- Polymerase Reaction (RT-PCR) Testing" **or** the current price range¹ mandated by the Department of Health that is applicable during the monitoring visit.

The facility is non-compliant to the aforementioned policies.

IV. RECOMMENDATION/S:

Issuance of Notice of Violation

Non-issuance of Notice of Violation

Others. Specify _____

MONITORED BY:

Printed Name	Signature	Position/Designation
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

CONFORME:

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Position/Designation: _____

Date of Monitoring: _____

¹ Based on Joint A.O. No. 2020-0001, the mandated price range for COVID-19 testing and test kits shall be subject to review every month by the DOH through the PD, HFSRB, RITM, and PhilHealth, together with the DTI. The DOH shall review and update the price range as necessary and shall publish changes (if any) accordingly.