



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
EMBAJADA DE LA REPUBLICA DE FILIPINAS
MADRID

PUBLIC ADVISORY # 22

Additional Guidelines on Travel To and From the Philippines

31 July 2020

1. As a returning overseas Filipino, what should I be aware of?

You will get tested. All passengers arriving in the Philippines shall be subjected to health evaluation, thermal scanning, and RT-PCR testing (swab test), and must await test results in a hotel quarantine facility.

All overseas Filipinos (non-OFWs) and foreign nationals will shoulder the cost of their own food and accommodation, and will need to stay in a DOH-approved or OWWA-designated quarantine facility/hotel where they will strictly observe health protocols. Returning OFWs will have their quarantine accommodations shouldered by OWWA for land-based workers, and by the local manning agency and or MARINA for sea-based OFWs.

Those that will be advised to do mandatory quarantine will need to stay in isolation for 14 days. You will only know if you will be doing mandatory quarantine based on the results of the COVID-19 test. Those who have completed the prescribed quarantine will be provided a medical certificate as proof they have been discharged from their accommodation. They may still be subject to further health/quarantine protocols set by the DOH and local government units of their residence.

Outbound travel of an overseas Filipino must follow the requirements set under Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) Resolution No. 52, dated 6 July 2020, which include presentation before Philippine immigration officials their confirmed bookings, proof of travel and health insurance, proof you will be allowed entry to Spain according to Spain's travel, health and quarantine restrictions, among others. The Bureau of Immigration may also request that you execute a declaration acknowledging the risks involved in traveling, including possibility of travel delays.

2. Who can so far enter the Philippines?

Aside from Filipino nationals with valid travel documents, only the following may enter the Philippines:

- Accredited Foreign Government and International Organization officials and their dependents;
- Foreign spouses and children, and children of Filipino nationals;
- Foreign airline crew;
- Seafarers with valid 9(c) visas.

Beginning 01 August 2020, foreign nationals with long-term visas (specifically immigrant visas under Section 13 of CA613; RA 7919 and EO 324), as well as foreign nationals born in the Philippines whose parents, either or both, are lawful permanent residents) shall be allowed entry in the Philippines subject to the following conditions:

- They must have a valid visas at the time of entry, and

- They must pre-book with an accredited quarantine facility and with a COVID-19 testing provider.

3. As a Filipino holding a Spanish residency card, what should I be aware of when returning to Spain?

Filipinos who hold a Spanish residence card (temporary residence and / or work permits, study permits, student mobility, non-work related internship or volunteer services), whose validity expired during the state of alarm in Spain (effective March 15) or 90 calendar days prior to that, has been extended by up to six months from June 21. The validity of the residence card of a family member of an EU citizen, as well as that of a foreigner's identification card, is extended automatically from its expiration date, as well as for the same period of six (6) months after the end of the state of alarm.

Foreigners who may be abroad shall be able to enter Spain by presenting a valid travel document and the expired residence card of a family member of an EU citizen, or the foreigner's expired identification card. Prior to arrival in Spain, travelers are required to fill up a health form for contract tracing.

4. I have intentions of coming home within the second half of 2020. Will conditions improve by then where I would not have to undergo quarantine?

It is difficult to set concrete expectations for the near future. As reported in social media, there are still thousands of Filipinos, mainly OFWs, that are still expected to return to the Philippines. For as long as testing and quarantine on travelers are still imposed due to COVID-19 conditions, it is further advised that tourist travel, and unnecessary travel, to the Philippines be deferred for the time being.

5. What should Spanish nationals and other foreigners consider when they set plans to travel to the Philippines?

There are different types of community quarantine protocols strictly implemented in the country that restricts movement of individuals/large group of people in the country.

For this purpose, travel to the Philippines for leisure purposes is still not allowed. The Philippine government's COVID-19 task force is constantly reviewing conditions on the entry of foreigners to the country.

6. I am a Filipino national who wishes to travel to Europe. What must I know of the regulations on travel from the Philippines?

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) announced that as of 24 July 2020 it is re-implementing a ban on non-essential travel, which include leisure and tourism purposes. The exceptions to travel are only for departing Filipinos who have made their bookings on or before 20 July 2020, provided that they are classified as "essential travel" for business, or for work reasons, as well as medical and humanitarian reasons. Also allowed to depart are Filipinos who are overseas workers, holders of study visas, and permanent residents in their country of destination.

Immigration officers in different international ports have been instructed to implement the travel ban as ordered by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) resolution no. 57, dated 21 July 2020.

Passengers must execute a declaration acknowledging the risks of traveling and should follow IATF guidelines upon their return to the Philippines.

Spain is not allowing Filipinos and other foreign nationals at the moment unless they can show proof of residency in Spain. Those with a valid Schengen visa cannot yet enter Spain unless there is reason to travel on humanitarian grounds. For greater accuracy of travel information, it is best to consult with the airline instead of a travel agent. For visa-related matters, the Spanish Consulate in Manila will be in a better position to answer your question.

7. Can you provide website references on travel concerns?

Travel advisories issued by governments constantly change due to the uncertainty brought by the coronavirus pandemic. Note that control measures may be announced within a very little period of notice. For global COVID-19 airport status, including status update on select PH airports:

International Civil Aviation Organization
www.icao.int/safety/Pages/COVID-19-Airport-Status.aspx

For Philippine immigration announcements:
<https://immigration.gov.ph>

For IATF-EID resolutions:
<https://www.doh.gov.ph/COVID-19/IATF-Resolutions>

For flight schedules and notices in Spain and the Philippines:

Aeropuerto Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-EI Prat
www.aena.es
Madrid Barajas International Airport
www.aeropuertomadrid-barajas.com
Manila International Airport Authority (NAIA)
www.miaa.gov.ph

This latest advisory supercedes Public Advisory # 21. Regular updates will be made to this Q&A/ Updated as of 1700 hrs / 31 July 2020 / Madrid PE

