



## **PUBLIC ADVISORY # 18**

### **Q&A On Travel to the Philippines 17 May 2020**

#### **1. I am an overseas Filipino and I wish to return to the Philippines. How can I arrange for my flight home?**

There are several considerations you should be aware of when arranging your flight to the Philippines amidst the COVID-19 health crisis.

As Spain is still in a State of Alarm until 24 May 2020, with the possibility of a further extension for a month, in-land/inter-region land travel is still not allowed unless for emergency or urgent necessity.

Spain's major international airports are Madrid-Barajas Airport and Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat Airport. International flights are also available in Malaga and Palma de Mallorca and Gran Canaria. All are now undertaking limited operations and permit only essential travel while in a State of Alarm (although limited operations may persist and the State of Alarm may also be extended).

Any question on travel must be discussed with the airline you will be travelling with. Most flights leaving Spain are specific, special or chartered flights. When returning to the Philippines, please note you will have to make a connecting flight to either Doha, Ankara or Dubai, or other cities depending on your airline. It is thus important to check with the websites of your airline on updates on flight connections and their prices.

#### **2. What is the situation about commercial flights that are arriving in the Philippines?**

There are limited commercial flight arriving in the Philippines that carry passenger or cargo. From 11 May 2020 to 10 June 2020, NAIA has imposed restrictions on inbound commercial flights. Inbound commercial flights further need to be pre-approved by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (as noted in the Embassy's Public Advisory #16). This will affect the decision of airlines when scheduling flights to the Philippines.

As of 15 May 2020, the NAIA is prioritizing modified commercial flights and sweeper/chartered flights, with priority given for the repatriation of OFWs working with cruise companies as well as employer-organized land-based OFWs. Passenger arrivals at NAIA is still limited to 400 per day and flight cancellations may be possible.

#### **3. As a returning overseas Filipino, what should I be aware of?**

As of 11 May 2020, all passengers arriving in the Philippines shall be subjected to health evaluation and thermal scanning/medical assessment upon arrival. Among the health



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

protocols to be implemented will be the swab test or RT-PCR COVID-19 test and quarantine procedures until test results are released. All air carriers will be informing every passenger traveling to the Philippines of these requirements. The only exception from swab testing are airline crew members.

If test result is negative, the passenger will nonetheless be advised to undergo 14-day home quarantine. If positive, they will be referred to a hospital or treatment facility for further medical management, which may include being subject to Rapid Antibody COVID-19 testing and 14-day Mandatory Quarantine at an OWWA-designated quarantine facility.

All overseas Filipinos and foreign nationals who are financially capable to pay for their own food and accommodation may be allowed to stay in a DOH-approved or OWWA-designated hotel quarantine facility while strictly observing quarantine 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.

Passengers are encouraged to fill out, prior to arrival at NAIA, the Case Investigation Form, that can be downloaded at <http://ritm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Form-1.pdf>, in order to expedite airport procedures.

While Metro Manila is still under a Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine, domestic flights to and from Manila and other cities will remain cancelled up to 31 May 2020. Reduced weekly flights on domestic routes may be possible by 01 June 2020 but this will depend on further announcements on community quarantine restrictions and COVID-19 conditions in parts of the Philippines. It is best to contact domestic airline companies for updates.

The Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines may be accessed at the Philippine Embassy in Madrid website.

**4. I have intentions of coming home sometime in June 2020, or perhaps on a later time. Will conditions improve by then where I would not have to undergo quarantine?**

It is difficult to set concrete expectations for the near future. What is clear is that there are hundreds, if not thousands of Filipinos, mainly OFWs, that are still expected to return to the Philippines in the coming weeks, even months. For as long as travel bans are still imposed by various governments due to COVID-19 conditions, it is further advised that all 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?**

The Bureau of Immigration has, since 22 March 2020, imposed a temporary order suspending visa privileges for entry of foreign nationals to the Philippines except for foreign spouses/children of Filipino nationals and diplomats/foreign government officials. All



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

previously issued visas are deemed cancelled, and issuance of tourist/business visas to foreigners remain suspended until further notice.

You may wish to get more information from the following websites:

Barcelona Airport (Aeropuerto Josep Tarradellas Barcelona-El Prat) [www.aena.es](http://www.aena.es)

Madrid Barajas International Airport [www.aeropuertomadrid-barajas.com](http://www.aeropuertomadrid-barajas.com)

Manila International Airport Authority (Ninoy Aquino International Airport)  
[www.miaa.gov.ph](http://www.miaa.gov.ph)

---

*Regular updates will be made to this Q&A/ Updated as of 2000 hrs/ 17 May 2020 / Madrid PE*

