



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

PUBLIC ADVISORY # 23

Supplemental Advisory on Travel To and From the Philippines
With the Declaration of MECQ
4 August 2020

1. What is the situation in the Philippines now that the Philippine Government declared that Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal will be under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) from 4 August 2020 to 18 August 2020?

From 4 August 2020 to 18 August 2020, international flights to the Philippines may be limited. Returning Filipinos must coordinate with their airlines on their flight bookings.

All domestic flights and inter-island travel within the period 4 August 2020 to 18 August 2020 are suspended.

Public transportation such as LRT/MRT, bus, jeepney, taxis will not be operating, and transportation services will be severely limited for areas placed under MECQ. Shuttle services will be allowed but will be issued special permits to operate. Personal vehicles owned by persons/workers in permitted sectors are also allowed, with two (2) persons per row.

2. Consular and Immigration Services To be Affected by MECQ

In accordance with MECQ guidelines, consular operations in DFA ASEANA Paranaque City, all Consular Offices (CO) in Metro Manila, Malolos, Damarinas, Laguna and Antipolo will be suspended from 04 August to 18 August 2020.

Passport production and delivery of passports to Philippine Embassies and Consulates, including the Philippine Embassy in Spain, may be affected by the MECQ declaration. Please visit the consular website at <http://consular.dfa.gov.ph>, the official DFA FB page at <https://www.facebook.com/dfaph/> or the official DFA Twitter at <https://twitter.com/dfaph/> for more updates.

Offices of the Bureau of Immigration in Metro Manila, Laguna, Cavite, Rizal and Bulacan will be operating at reduced manpower capacity and confirmed online appointments of clients for 04 August to 18 August 2020 are suspended.

3. Who else, other than Filipino nationals, can so far enter the Philippines?

The following are allowed to enter the Philippines but are required to secure or possess appropriate visas prior to entering the Philippines:

- Accredited Foreign Govt. and Intl. Organization officials and their dependents;
- Foreign airline crew;
- Seafarers with valid 9(c) visas.

As of 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 but require visas prior to entering the country.

As of 3 August 2020, the following are also exempted but would also need to secure or possess appropriate visas prior to entering the Philippines. Note the exemption likewise covers former Filipinos who were naturalized in other countries:

- Foreign spouses and children, and children of Filipino nationals (except those inconsistent with Philippine regulations such as same/sex marriage and common-law spouse certificates);
- Foreign minor children, and foreign children with special needs regardless of age, of Filipino nationals;
- Foreign parents of minor Filipino children and of Filipino children with special needs regardless of age;

Proof of filiation must be shown to immigration authorities. All incoming travelers are subjected to quarantine procedures as set by the Department of Health (DOH). They must all pre-book with an accredited quarantine facility and with a COVID-19 testing provider.

Under MECQ, please take note that inbound travel may be limited to returning Filipinos.

4. What should returning Filipinos be aware of when arriving at NAIA?

Returning Filipinos are requested to secure a valid and active email address and mobile number before they travel to the Philippines.

We also remind returning Filipinos that COVID-19 testing will be administered at the airport. You have to register and fill out the electronic Case Investigation Form (e-CIF) at <https://e-cif.redcross.org.ph/> prior to arrival in the Philippines to secure your own QR code for RT-PCR testing to be administered by the Philippine Red Cross. Returning Filipinos may also choose to have tests administered by private testing facilities at the airport, but they also have to accomplish the e-CIF of their chosen testing facility upon arrival.

While awaiting test results, you will need to stay at a hotel quarantine facility. The list of facilities may be found at <https://quarantine.doh.gov.ph/facilities-inspected-as-of-july-30-2020/>

All overseas Filipinos (non-OFWs) and foreign nationals will shoulder the costs of RT-PCR testing and accommodation.

This latest advisory is intended to supplement the information as conveyed in Public Advisory # 22 dated 31 July 2020. Regular updates will be made to this Q&A/ Updated as of 1700 hrs / 3 August 2020 / Madrid PE

