

**Press Release**  
**Department of Labor and Employment**  
**Bureau of Working Conditions**  
**29 April 2020**

**World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2020**

The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is an annual international campaign held every 28<sup>th</sup> of April. This has been observed by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the country since 2003. The campaign seeks to promote safe, healthy and decent work was declared by the ILO to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally.

This year's theme of World Day for Safety and Health at Work - *Stop the pandemic: Safety and Health at Work Can Save Lives* - focuses on addressing the outbreak of infectious diseases at work relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This theme could not have come in a more perfect time than this, as the government, employers and workers are finding ways to keep affected businesses and workers afloat.

Beyond the immediate crisis, there are concerns about resuming activity after the lifting of the enhanced community quarantine to prevent the possible recurrence of second and third wave of the disease.

The transition of some parts of the country to General Community Quarantine after April 30 shall allow resumption of work with some limitations in some areas. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), through the Bureau of Working Conditions, will issue a Labor Advisory on Safety and Health for Workplaces in the Aftermath of Enhanced Community Quarantine. The interim guidelines shall focus on the immediate "new-normal", including recovery and future preparedness as well as integration of mitigating measures into the country's Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) system. The interim guideline shall be issued as a Joint Memorandum Circular and to be signed by the Secretaries of the DOLE and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Previously, the DOLE issued Labor Advisory No. 4, Series of 2020 known as the *Guidelines on 2019 Novel Corona Virus Prevention and Control in the Workplace*. The Labor Advisory was proven effective in addressing safety and health on the early stage of the disease. Currently, the country concerns itself on its mitigation measures and operation of businesses on the "new normal" of safety precautions for COVID-19.

The DOLE shall observe the World Day for Safety and Health at Work to raise awareness, through social media, on the adoption of safe practices in workplaces and the role of occupational safety and health (OSH) services. The Department's

soon to be issued guidelines on OSH is seen to mitigate the further spread of the disease in workplaces.

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