

Good News
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
31 January 2020

PREPARING FOR THE WORST HOPING FOR THE BEST

On 31 January 2020, the Secretary of Labor and Employed signed Labor Advisory No. 04, Series of 2020 entitled *Guidelines on 2019 Novela Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Prevention and Control at The Workplace*.

Prior to the declaration of the World Health Organization of said disease as global emergency, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Philippines met to plot the country's response to establish preparedness and ensure efficient government response to assess, monitor, contain, control, and prevent the spread of nCOV in the country.

The inter-agency task force issued Resolution No. 01, Series of 2020 entitled *Recommendations for the Management of Novel Coronavirus Situation* which was issued by the group on 28 January 2020. As for the Department, it supplemented it with Labor Adisory No. 04, Series of 2020.

The policy is replete with provisions on precautionary measures, response to imminent danger situations, guidance to employers in providing care to their workers who are sick, guidance policy on the availment of leave credits, access to social welfare benefits, and more importantly, assistance that can be provided by the DOLE.

Incidentally, the DOLE has released an IEC material for the guidance of everyone which highlights the following actions:

1. Wash your hands before and after eating, after handling clients, and using the bathroom
2. Practice proper hand washing
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth and ears
4. Practice proper cough etiquette:
 - a. Always bring a handkerchief
 - b. Cover mouth and nose using handkerchief/tissue
 - c. Move away from people when coughing
 - d. Do not spit in public places
 - e. Throw away used tissues properly
 - f. Always wash your hands after sneezing or coughing
 - g. Use alcohol/sanitizer
5. For front line services, be conscious of writing surfaces and materials as possible infection source.
6. If masks will be used, observe proper use
7. Avoid unprotected contact with farm or wild animals
8. Ensure that food is well-cooked
9. Get enough rest (6-8 hours of sleep) and enough vitamin rich foods to boost immunity.