

Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
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DOLE intensifies monitoring of its Interim Guidelines in the new normal

The new normal will be anything but ordinary. The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has undeniably changed standard work methods globally. On 30 April 2020, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) issued “DTI and DOLE Interim Guidelines on Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19 Interim Guidelines.

After almost three months of implementation, as of July 22, 2020, a total of 28,412 establishments were monitored by the DOLE labor Inspectors, with a compliance rate of 76.41% or 21,710 establishments complying with the policy. A total of 1,151,106 workers benefitted from this monitoring.

The monitoring efforts have been conducted jointly by the DOLE’s Regional Offices and their counterpart from the DTI.

The Interim Guidelines was aligned with the minimum health protocols and standards for COVID 19 set by the Department of Health. Among the requirements being monitored there are: wearing of mask at all times of all employees and visitors; accomplishment of daily health declaration forms; checking and recording of temperature before entry in the establishment; observance of physical distancing and proper cough etiquette; and practice of frequent handwashing and regular disinfection of the workplace. Additionally, protocol for management and referral of probable and COVID-19 suspects and reporting of cases were also outlined therein.

For workplaces requiring assistance with the requirements of the Interim Guidelines, the DTI and DOLE undertake to extend technical support to all workplaces.

Currently, the MIS Unit of the DOLE-Bureau of Working Conditions collates the reports from DOLE ROs. A supplemental guideline is now on the works to address the gaps that were noted in the monitoring of establishments.

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