



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 18, 2021

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR
No. 2021 - 0016

FOR : **DIRECTORS OF CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT (CHD); DIVISION CHIEFS OF CHD-REGULATIONS, LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION AND HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REGULATORY BUREAU; MINISTER OF HEALTH — BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO REGULATION, LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT CLUSTER; AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

SUBJECT : **Monitoring of Compliance to the Implementation of the Mandated Price Range for Reverse Transcription Polymerase Reaction in all COVID-19 Testing Laboratories**

Pursuant to Section VI. General Guidelines of the Department of Health-Department of Trade and Industry Joint Administrative Order (DOH-DTI JAO) 2020-0001 titled "Guidelines for the Implementation of Executive Order No. 118 on Regulation of Prices for COVID-19 Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) Testing and Test Kits," "*The DOH, with the DTI, shall set the price range of COVID-19 testing and test kits to ensure quality of service, affordability, and availability to patients and consumers.*" Under this DOH-DTI JAO, the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB), the Center for Health Development Regulation, Licensing and Enforcement Division (CHD-RLED) and the Ministry of Health Bangsamoro in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Regulation, Licensing and Enforcement Cluster (MOH-BARMM RLEC) shall monitor the cost and the compliance to the implementation of the mandated price range for Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Reaction (RT-PCR) in all COVID-19 Testing Laboratories.

Further, in Department Circular (DC) No. 2020-0391 or the "Price Range for COVID-19 Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Reaction (RT-PCR) Testing," dated November 27, 2020, the price for all DOH-licensed COVID-19 testing laboratories nationwide is as follows: for public facilities the price is set at PhP 3,800, while for private facilities, the price is from PhP 4,500 to PhP 5,000, inclusive of all costs.

Various reports on the overpricing of the COVID-19 tests have reached the HFSRB. However, due to the current pandemic, the availability of transportation posed a great challenge in the performance of the monitoring function of the regulatory officers of HFSRB.

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CORAZON S. DELA CRUZ
KMITS - RECORDS SECTION
Department of Health

In view of the above, the monitoring of price range for COVID-19 tests in all DOH-licensed COVID-19 testing laboratories, whether free-standing or hospital based, is hereby delegated to the CHD-RLED and the MOH-BARMM RLEC.

For compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

DR. MARIA ROSARIO S. VERGEIRE, MPH, CESO IV
OIC – Undersecretary of Health
Health Regulation Team

