

# Strict evaluation for COVID-19 cure-FDA

The Department of Health (DOH) with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in the July 1 Beat COVID-19 Virtual Presser released critical updates on the ongoing COVID-19 trials as part of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Solidarity Trial for treatments. The global clinical trial aims to rapidly discover treatment options to help find an effective treatment for COVID-19.

"Ang pagtuklas ng lunas laban sa COVID-19 ay napakahalaga. Ang pangangasiwa ng mga inisyatibo ukol sa mga bakuna o ang mga pagsisikap na makatuklas ng lunas ay kasing halaga upang maging siguro ang kaligtasan at proteksyon ng bawat Pilipino at ng buong mundo," said Health Secretary Maria Rosario Singh-Vergeire, underscoring the importance of thorough, strict and oversight in the regulation on clinical trials.

The Health Spokesperson was joined by FDA Director General Rolando Enrique Domingo who gave an overview on the current trials being done. "Sa kasalukuyan ay mayroong 17 candidates para sa COVID-19 vaccines na nasa clinical trial stage at 132 candidate vaccines naman ang nasa pre-clinical evaluation. Ang FDA ay mayroon nang koordinasyon sa Department of Science and Technology para sa technical review ng mga mag-a-apply ng COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial sa bansa," Domingo said.

In the virtual press-makitawid ng lunas ay kasing halaga upang maging siguro ang kaligtasan at proteksyon ng bawat Pilipino at ng buong mundo," were mentioned as part of the WHO Solidarity Trial. The Philippines currently has 450 patients enrolled in 22 active sites under the program.

Director General Domingo elaborated on hydroxychloroquine which he explained had long been registered in the Philippines for patients with rheumatic diseases and lupus. The drug used to be part of the Solidarity Trial but was recently stopped due to evidence that it does not minimize COVID-19's mortality rate.

## DOTr free ride for health workers

Patuloy ang pag-arangkada ng Kagawaran ng Transportasyon sa pagbibigay ng LIBRENG SAKAY sa ating mga bayaning HEALTH WORKERS, hindi lamang sa National Capital Region (NCR), kundi maging sa regions 1, 2, 3, 4A, 4B, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, CAR at CARAGA!

Naihandog ang libreng sakay sa iba pang panig ng bansa dahil sa pakikipagtulungan ng Land Transportation Office (LTO) at Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

Kahapon, ika-07 ng Hulyo 2020, umabot na sa bilang na 1,300,493 ang kabuuang ridership ng programa, kung saan 381,401 ang total ridership sa NCR-Greater Manila, habang 919,092 naman sa iba pang mga rehiyon.

Samantala, maaari pa ring makita ang LIVE LOCATION ng mga bus units habang binabaybay ang 20 ruta sa Greater Manila Area dahil sa mga naka-install na GPS location tracker devices sa mga bus. Dahil diyan, malalaman ng mga frontliners ang oras ng pagdating ng mga bus. Ito ay naging posible dahil sa koordinasyon ng kagawaran sa PLDT Enterprise, at Vectras Inc.

Malalaman din ang kasalukuyang lokasyon ng

Remdesivir, originally meant for Ebola Virus, is now being administered to COVID-19 patients. It has been reported that in some clinical trials, remdesivir helped shorten the recovery time of some patients. "Isa ito sa mga bagong gamot kaya wala pa itong aprubadong

mga vehicle units, mag-iingat ang 20 ruta ng libreng sakay sa Greater Manila, sa website, at mobile app ng Sakay.ph.

Hindi lang 'yan, manavigate rin ang nasa-bing mga ruta sa GOOGLE MAPS. Ibig sabihin, mas madali para sa ating mga health workers na mala-

indikasyon at Certificate of Product Registration sa kahit na anong bansa. Kaya ang mga bansang gumagamit ng remdesivir ay may mga limitasyon sa paggamit nito gaya ng pag-enroll sa clinical trials," explained Domingo. Domingo also reported on dexamethasone which is used to treat aller-

gy and low blood pressure of hospitalized patients. He further reminded the public when he said, "mahigpit na pinaaalahanan ng FDA ang publiko na hindi ito iniinom kung walang indikasyon. Kailangan ang reseta at pagsabaybay ng isang doktor sa paggamit nito."

(Turn to page 3)

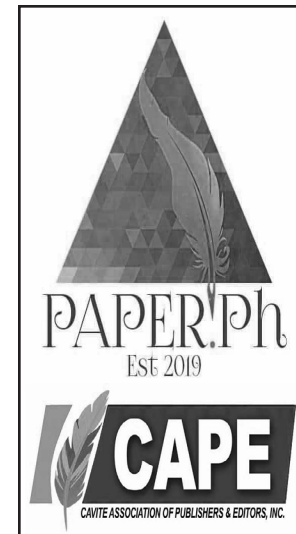
man kung saan maaaring i-avail ang libreng sakay. Samantala, ayon sa datos ng Road Sector, umabot sa kabuuang bilang na 110 VEHICLE UNITS ang na-deploy para sa libreng sakay kahapon, ika-07 ng Hulyo 2020.

Matatandaan na nag-simula lamang sa tatlong

(3) ruta ang DOTr Free Ride for Health Workers Program noong ika-18 ng Marso 2020, dalawang buwan na ang nakalilipas.

Katuwang din ng DOTr sa programa ang Petron Corporation, na nagbibigay ng FUEL SUBSIDY sa mga transport

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VOL. XVII NO. 45

July 13 - 19, 2020

ISSN 1655-0051 P 8.00

Entered as second class mail matter at Imus, Cavite Post Office under Permit No. 2C-14-03-152

# Caring for employees mental health DPWH started "We COPE As One" psychosocial support initiative

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) commits to caring for its employees' mental health and psychological well-being through its "We COPE As One" psychosocial support initiative amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Secretary Mark A. Villar assured that employees' Office, Regional Offices, District Engineer- (Turn to page 2)

## INSPECTION OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS IN CAVITE MALLS CONTINUES



DTI, Cavite Tourism, LGU Bacoor City during the joint monitoring of dine-in restaurants and salons at SM City Bacoor on June 26, 2020. Mayor Lani Mercado was also present during the post-audit monitoring, welcoming the inspection team led by DTI-Cavite OIC-PD Revelyn Cortez. Majority of the food establishments are compliant to the minimum health protocols as well as to the additional guidelines set by Governor Jonvic Remulla.

The mall management and tenants pledged to support the government's efforts and continue to implement the health and safety measures to fight COVID-19. Likewise, they request for issuance of certification that establishment is proven compliant and wish for longer mall hours to somehow extend service to other customers who can only do errands after they leave work at 5:00PM.

According to the mall manager, foot traffic was down to 8,000 these days as compared to 80,000 before the pandemic hits the province. — (PTCAO)

## City Government of Bacoor

According to City Ordinance No. CO 68-2020, everyone needs to wear face mask when in public places in Bacoor City



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VIOLATORS WILL BE FINED P2,000 OR RENDER COMMUNITY SERVICE



## CAVITE DIGEST

LEADING TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS  
CAVITE DIGEST is an English-Filipino weekly newspaper of general circulation, is published every Monday. Entered as Second Class Mail Matter at Post Office under Permit No. 2C-14-03-152. Commercial Advertising Display Rate: Php 200.00 per col. cm Legal Rate: Php160.00 per col. cm. Subscription Rate: Php 416.00 per year

EDNA B. CUYNO  
Publisher

MARK DAVID P. OCTAVIO  
Editor

ATTY. JOSE J. TORREFRANCA  
Legal Consultant

OFFICE ADDRESS: Perpetual 7, Palico 4, Imus, Cavite \* Contact No. (046) 6863126

MEMBER:

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### Caring for employees mental health DPWH started "We COPE As One" psychosocial support initiative

(From page 1) face interaction. This can Secretary Villar initiating Offices shall be offered support mechanism through the Department's supervisors – from section chiefs and above. Through a memorandum issued by Undersecretary for Support Services Ardeliza R. Medenilla, the said support mechanism aims to assist employees on their concerns, worries, and fears brought about by COVID-19 threat. Through the program, an employee can choose to undergo a dialogue with their corresponding supervisors via work-from-home (WFH) arrangement or face-to-

face interaction. This can be done either individually or as a team depending on the preference and readiness of the employee. Undersecretary Medenilla assured that all gathered concerns are strictly confidential and will remain so unless there are issues that might affect the safety of the individual or others. She also added that employees' desire to not undergo said interventions will be respected. DPWH

Secretary Villar initiated the We COPE As One program in accordance to Civil Service Commission Memorandum Circular No. 10, s. 2020 entitled "Revised Interim Guidelines for Alternative Work Arrangements and Support Mechanisms for Workers in the Government During the Period of State of National Emergency Due to COVID-19 Pandemic" issued in May 2020. Source: DPWH

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-Elbert Hubbard-

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### Municipality Carmona, Cavite

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**Bayan, Mayor Roy Listens**

Nais mo bang makausap si Mayor Roy Loyola sa telepono? Narito na ang Bayan, Mayor Roy Listens!

Paano makakausap si Mayor Roy Loyola gamit ang BML?

- Mag-sign up sa Google Form na ito: [bit.ly/BayanMayorRoyListens](https://bit.ly/BayanMayorRoyListens)
- Ilagay ang mga importanteng detalye:
  - Pangalan
  - Address
  - Contact Number
  - Pakay ng pakikipag-usap
- Ang mga nag-submit ng applications ay sasalaan ng maigang Carmona Municipal Action Center (CMAC) dahil sa inaasahang malaking bilang ng magpapaschedule.
- Kung ikaw ay isa sa mga nakatakdang tatawagan ni Mayor Roy, makakatanggap ka ng message mula sa CMAC tuwing Biyernes ng hapon o Lunes ng umaga bilang confirmation.

Note: Hindi ipoprocesso ang applications na may kulang o maling impormasyon.

Maaari ding magpadala ng pormal na liham sa [actioncenter.carmonalgu@gmail.com](mailto:actioncenter.carmonalgu@gmail.com)

Ito ay bukas mula Lunes hanggang Huwebes, 8 a.m. hanggang 3 p.m.

Mayor Roy Loyola: May nais ka bang iparating sa akin? I'm just a call away! Narito na ang Bayan, Mayor Roy Listens! Sa pamamagitan ng programang ito, maaari po tayong mag-usap bilang bahagi ng aking People's Day tuwing Lunes (1:00 – 4:00pm). Sisikapin ng aking tanggapan na mai-text o matawagan ang lahat ng nag-apply at mapabilis ang pagproseso ng applications sa abot ng makakaya nito.

### City Government of Bacoor

BFP Bacoor nag-disinfect sa kahabaan ng Zapote area kasama na din ang Zapote Market para mapigilan ang maaaring pagkalat ng virus sa paligid. Lubos na pag-iingat ang panawagan pa din sa bawat Bacooresoño.



Facebook: /CityGovBacoor Website: www.bacoor.gov.ph Instagram: /PICBacoor

### LGUs must establish dentist to wear PPE as health safety standards

To ensure that dental health professionals and their patients are not exposed to the risk of contracting COVID-19, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) enjoins all local government units (LGUs) to see to it that dentists within their areas or jurisdiction wear personal protective equipment (PPE) and that their clinics follow all the health and safety standards prescribed by the Department of Health.

"The nature of dental operation requires close proximity of a dentist and a patient. Kaya lalong dapat magsuot ng PPE ang mga dentist para sa kanilang kagligtasan at ng kanilang mga pasyente," DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año said.

The DILG Chief said that the dynamics of the dental treatments and services and the inevitability of close exposure to human orifices, namely the nose and the mouth, expose dentists to high risk of infection.

In an Advisory issued to all Local Government Units, Año said governors and mayors must require oral health professionals in their respective jurisdictions to comply to the Philippine Dental Association (PDA) Interim Guidelines on Infection Prevention during the COVID-19 pandemic which guides dentists in their operations in the 'new normal.'

"Amid our country's efforts against the spread of COVID-19, we cannot ignore other serious concerns that need to be addressed, including dental health. The DILG recognizes that oral health is just as important and is part of overall health," he said.

Drugs, such as remdesivir which has stricter limitations as to use, may be administered to patients under emergency use. Domingo reported that as of June 30, there are 40 drug applications approved in the Drugs for Emergency Use (DEU).

The FDA also recently released FDA Circular No. 2020-012 or "Guidelines for the registration of drug products under emergency use (DEU) for the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)" which aims to provide streamlined requirements and application process for the registration of drug products under emergency use for COVID-19.

Spokesperson and Undersecretary Jonathan E. Malaya said that the PDA guidelines provide the precautionary steps that dental clinics should take, such as patient screening, preparation of dental facility team, and standard layers of defense against COVID-19 which includes waste management of hazardous wastes.

"As the economy and establishments open up, the DILG counts on the LGUs to properly regulate the dental health sector in their localities in line with their duty to promote health and safety. Mahalaga ang oral health sa kabuoang kalusugan ng mamamayan," said Malaya.

Scheduling of patients For patient appointments, the PDA recommends doing a two-phase triage. First, dental clinics must screen cases over the phone to determine the urgency of care, to find out the area of current residence, and possible contact with confirmed COVID-19 patients. Patients should be informed of treatment options and infection control protocols in the clinic.

Second, during the appointment, a questionnaire checklist for possible symptoms and contact exposure will be filled out by a patient who will sign informed consent on treatment options and waiver forms. A scheduled appointment is advised except for emergencies. This makes possible the scheduling of patients apart to give enough time for the disinfection of work areas.

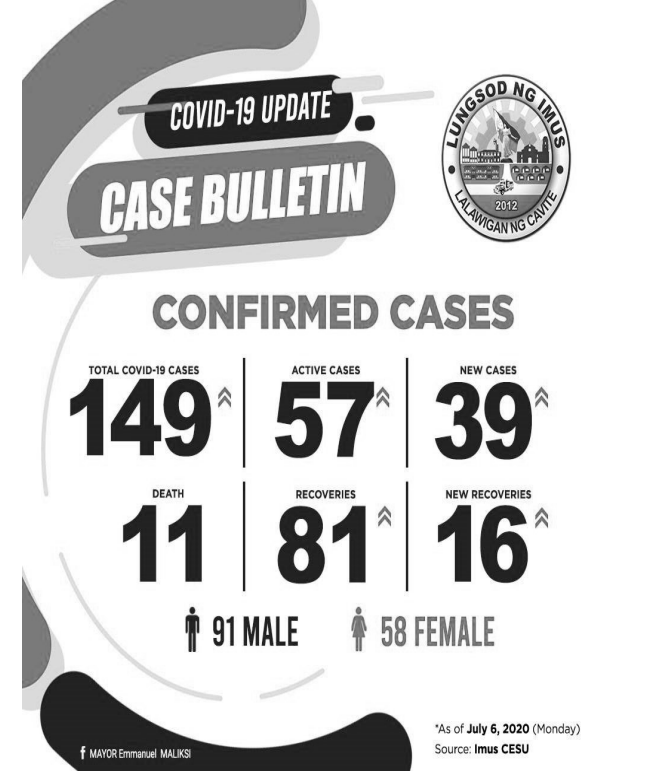
Prior to a face-to-face consultation, PDA advises dentists to conduct an inventory of their PPE supplies and only schedule an appointment with patients according to PPE's availability. Clinics should have printed reminders for patients to wear masks, avoid touching the face, do hand sanitization, observe cough etiquette, and maintain physical distancing.

Control of air flow in a clinic It is recommended that dental clinics frequently renew indoor air either by opening the windows or using mechanical ventilation to allow air exchange. The intent is to bring aerosolized air down to be siphoned out of the operatory.

However, the clinic staff's responsibility that infected air to be delivered as not to infect other individuals where contamination is blown out. The PDA guidelines further advised dentists that patients who need to undergo aerosol-generating procedures should be required to present a valid test result not more than five days old of RT-PCR (Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction) COVID-19 used and approved by the Department of Health. Source: DILG

### City Government of Imus

On the note of our Imus CESU, Imus City has a total number of 149 Covid-19 confirmed cases and 57 here are active cases or current healings. A (1) case reported in Barangay Bayan Luma 1 (Patient #109) in June 30 was removed from Imus list because it has not resided in our city since January. With the continuous increasing number of tests and confirmed cases, our plea continues for public unity and cooperation to stay in their home especially if there is no important purchase or transaction outside. #HomeFirstLifeFirst



### Strict evaluation for COVID-19 cure -FDA

(From page 4) While dexamethasone is not part of the WHO Solidarity Trial, data from the United Kingdom recently reported that the drug has helped in lowering the mortality rate of COVID-19 patients who are in critical condition. However, Domingo stressed that although early data shows promising results on the efficacy of dexamethasone in treating COVID-19, it must not be used for self-medication as it could have severe side effects to healthy individuals.

The circular covers all marketing authorization holders that will manufacture and import or distribute the drug products indicated in the Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Interim Guidelines on the Clinical Management of Adult Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Infection.

The FDA Director General also warned against the deliberate selling of unregistered drugs. Domingo reported, "Sa kasamaang palad kahit sa panahon ng pandemya, mayroong mga taong nag-sasamantala at nagbebenta ng mga produktong hindi rehistrado o aprubado ng FDA, maging mga pekeng gamot. Mayroon nang ginawa ang FDA na coordination activities o pag-sangguni sa mga Law Enforcement Agencies tulad ng National Bureau of Investigation at PNP-CIDG para makompiska ang mga peke o hindi rehistradong mga gamot sa iba't ibang rehiyon sa Pilipinas."

Overall, Domingo stressed in the search for pharmaceutical intervention against COVID-19, he maintained that there must be a balance in speeding up the trial and ensuring safety, explaining that trials are important as it maintains welfare of those participating in the trials.

"Naiintindihan natin na lahat tayo ay sabik na makapanap ng lunas para sa COVID-19, pero gusto rin nating maging maingat at mapanuri sa mga gamot na gagamitin natin. Hindi biro at basta-bata lang ang pagbibigay ng gamot dahil may mga epekto ito na maaaring hindi maging kaaya-aya. Kinakailangang suportado ng scientific evidence at ethical basis ang mga desisyon," Domingo concluded. Source: DOH

Meanwhile, DILG