



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

January 29, 2021

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 2021 - 0007

TO : ALL UNDERSECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS, REGIONAL OFFICES AND SERVICES; EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS, AND NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA AND INSTITUTES; PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION; DIRECTORS OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS; AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : DOH-DTI-DOLE-DILG-DOTr-DPWH-PSC-GAB Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2021-0001 entitled "Clarificatory Guidelines on the Mandatory Use of Face Shields Outside of Residence for COVID-19 Mitigation"

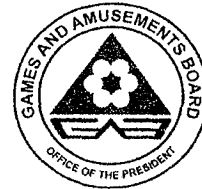
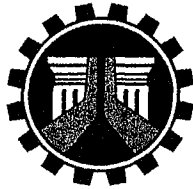
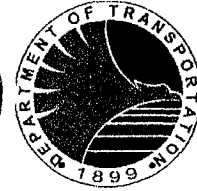
Attached for your information and guidance is a copy of the DOH-DTI-DOLE-DILG-DOTr-DPWH-PSC-GAB Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2021-0001 entitled "Clarificatory Guidelines on the Mandatory Use of Face Shields Outside of Residence for COVID-19 Mitigation" dated January 12, 2021.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. David", is written over the text "By Authority of the Secretary of Health:".

LILIBETH C. DAVID, MD, MPH, MPM, CESO I
Undersecretary of Health
Health Facilities and Infrastructure Development Team



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION
GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS BOARD**

JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

JAN 12 2021

No. 2021 - 0001

**SUBJECT: Clarificatory Guidelines on the Mandatory Use of Face Shields
Outside of Residence for COVID-19 Mitigation**

I. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to IATF Resolution No. 88 dated December 14, 2020, Paragraph 5, Section 8 of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, face shields were mandated to be worn by individuals outside of their residence, to wit:

SECTION [8] GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. *All persons are mandated to wear full-coverage face shields, together with face masks, earloop masks, indigenous, reusable, or do-it yourself masks, or other facial protective equipment which can effectively lessen the transmission of COVID-19, whenever they go out of their residences, pursuant to existing guidelines issued by the national government subject to fair and humane penalties or punishments that may be imposed by LGUs or implemented by law enforcement agencies, respectively. LGUs are hereby enjoined to use IATF-endorsed contact tracing and contact monitoring applications (StaySafe.ph and TanodCOVID) where they are available or use community-based contact tracing and contact monitoring. Concerned LGUs are hereby enjoined to issue the necessary executive order to ordinance to this effect. (Emphasis supplied.)*

In view of the foregoing, the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Philippines Sports Commission (PSC)

and Games and Amusements Board (GAB) provide these clarificatory guidelines on the mandatory use of face shields outside of residences for COVID-19 mitigation.

II. IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES

A. Use of Face Shields in Various Settings

1. Community (Individuals Outside of Residence)

Pursuant to DOH Department Memorandum (DM) No. 2020-0534, individuals in the following settings shall wear full-coverage face shields in addition to the face masks to prevent the risk of COVID-19 transmission:

- a) Enclosed (i.e. indoors) public spaces;
- b) Schools;
- c) Workplaces
- d) Commercial establishments such as but not limited to food establishments, malls, and public markets;
- e) Public transport and terminals;
- f) Places of worship; and
- g) Other public spaces wherein one (1) meter physical distancing is not possible **AND** there is a gathering of more than 10 individuals at the same venue at the same time.

Under any circumstance, sharing or borrowing of face shields shall not be allowed.

2. Workplace and Business Establishments

Pursuant to the DTI and DOLE Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 20-04-A entitled "DTI and DOLE Supplemental Guidelines on Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19," employers are required to implement necessary workplace safety and health programs and standards at no cost to the employees. As such, employers shall provide face masks and face shields for their employees, among other PPE and non-pharmaceutical interventions that may be necessary.

Employers and employees are provided with guidelines on Face Shields that can be found in Section II.B.1.b. "Face shields" for their compliance. These include the following:

- i. Face shields shall cover the entire face (completely cover the sides and length of the face).
- ii. Visor-type face shields shall not be allowed.
- iii. Face shields and masks should always be worn together when interacting with colleagues, clients and/or visitors.
- iv. Face shields may be removed according to the demands of the work or when the occupational safety and health of the employees so requires.

Safety goggles may be considered for individuals doing strenuous tasks in lieu of face shields upon advice by the workplace safety officer and Occupational Safety and Health Committee.

Employers shall also provide advocacy awareness raising programs to be given by the Occupational Safety and Health Committee on infection prevention and control measures. Topics for these programs should include best practices on wearing of face masks and face shields (Section II.B.6). Additionally, should the workplaces provide shuttle services, the minimum public health standards are to be observed, including the wearing of face shields and masks (Section II.B.4).

Face shields shall also be provided in isolation areas of the workplace (Section III.B). Please refer to the DTI-DOLE JMC 2020-04-A for further guidance.

3. Film and Audiovisual Production Activities

All individuals participating in film and audiovisual production shoots and audiovisual activities are required to wear face shields with face masks as often as permissible, removing only when required tasks presented or when the Occupational and Safety Health risk would be greater if worn.

4. Health-enhancing Physical Activities and Sports

Pursuant to the PSC, GAB, and DOH Joint Administrative Order No. 2020-0001 entitled "Guidelines on the Conduct of Health-Enhancing Physical Activities and Sports during the COVID-19 Pandemic" and DOH DM 2020-0534, individuals engaging in health-enhancing physical activities in public spaces or high-density areas are recommended to wear their masks, but maintain the conduct of health-enhancing physical activity to a low or moderate intensity. If unable to wear a mask due to high-intensity exercises, face shields may be worn to prevent COVID-19 transmission. However, individuals engaging in any form of health-enhancing physical activity or sports may be exempted from using face shields during the conduct of the physical activity or sports if a physical distancing of two (2) meters in open spaces/outdoor facilities and three (3) meters in enclosed spaces/indoor facilities is observed. Face shields may be removed during the conduct of the activity, but must be worn before and after the activity.

5. Active and Public Transport

Pursuant to DOH, DOTr, DILG, and DPWH Joint Administrative Order No. 2020-0001 entitled Guidelines on the Proper Use and Promotion of Active Transport During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic, Section V.5. *All road users shall observe physical distancing and respiratory hygiene practices, and other appropriate health interventions in the use of active transport. However, due to the possible vision impairment face shields bring, bikers and users of other forms of active transport are exempted from the mandatory use of face shields outside of their residences provided that they wear face shields before and after biking or engaging in any other active transport.*

Pursuant to the DOTr Memorandum Circular No. 2020-014 on the Mandatory Wearing of Face Shields for Passengers Using Public Transportation, all passengers of public transportation are required to wear face shields in addition to face masks, provided that public transportation is allowed under that given area's risk classification. Furthermore, in view of DOH DM No. 2020-0534, individuals who are driving are exempted from the mandatory use

of face shields outside of their residences but must wear face shields when they exit their vehicles.

B. Exemptions from the Use of Face Shields

Pursuant to DOH DM No. 2020-0534, the following individuals shall be exempted from wearing face shields:

1. Neonates and children below two years old^{1,2}. However, the public is reminded to observe the IATF Guidelines on age restrictions pertaining to persons required to stay home.
2. Individuals wearing goggles or other barriers for eye protection in their current tasks or line of work.
3. Individuals who are unable to remove face shields on their own -- including those who are incapacitated, unconscious or with medical conditions.
4. Individuals engaging in any form of health-enhancing physical activity or sports *provided* that a physical distancing of two (2) meters in open spaces/outdoor facilities and three (3) meters in enclosed spaces/indoor facilities is observed. Face shields may be removed during the conduct of the activity, but must be worn before and after the activity.
5. Individuals whose safety or ability to work would be seriously and adversely affected by visual or respiratory impairment due to use of a face shield.
6. Individuals engaged in strenuous activities/work (ex. construction, logistics), fine workmanship (ex. seamstresses), operation of transportation vehicles (i.e. when driving), and active transport. Face shields may be removed if the safety or ability to work will be seriously and adversely affected by visual or respiratory impairment due to use of the same. The advice of the Safety Officer and/or the OSH Committee may be sought for further guidance. However, face shields must be worn before and after the exempted work, task, or activity.
7. Passengers of motor vehicles wearing helmets with full-face visors while in transit. However, they are mandated to wear face shields before and after transit.
8. Individuals who are eating and drinking in public spaces. Face shields must be worn before and after eating and drinking.

For further reference on the proper use of face shields, please refer to DOH DM No. 2020-0534.

C. Monitoring and Compliance

Concerned agencies shall strictly monitor compliance with this Joint Memorandum Circular through inspection and surveillance. Findings of non-compliance shall be referred to concerned entities for further evaluation and imposition of proper penalties, if relevant and warranted.

¹ Philippine Pediatric Society, Philippine Society on Newborn Medicine (2020). Joint Statement on the Use of Face Shield for Newborns During the SARS-COV2 Pandemic.

² Center for Disease Control. Considerations for Wearing Cloth Face Coverings (2020). Retrieved July 8,2020, from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html> .

III. REPEALING CLAUSE

Other related issuances not consistent with the provisions of this Joint Memorandum Circular are hereby revised, modified, or rescinded accordingly. Nothing in this Circular shall be construed as a limitation or modification of existing laws, rules and regulations.

IV. PENALTIES

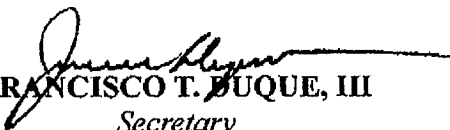
Penalties as administrative fines may be imposed through DOLE Department Order No. 198 S. 2018 for any willful failure to comply with this Joint Memorandum Circular. Further, any entity found to have violated provisions of this Joint Memorandum Circular are subject to penalties and other legal actions in accordance with other relevant existing laws and orders.

V. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

Should any provision of this Joint Memorandum Circular or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.


VI. EFFECTIVITY

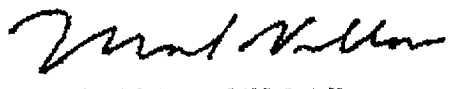
This Joint Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.



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