



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
Eastern Visayas  
Center for Health Development  
Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte



## **COVID-19 ADVISORY NO. 001** **EASTERN VISAYAS**

March 17, 2020

There are information circulating in our Region that certain individuals and companies are offering Rapid Diagnostic Test Kits COVID-19. Per Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Advisory dated March 15, 2020, FDA clarifies and reiterates that there are no registered COVID-19 diagnostic test kits available to the public because no company has complied with the minimum set of requirements. Many companies have been marketing test kits since the start of the COVID outbreak, however, the source and reliability of these devices are yet to be verified.

"We cannot vouch for its safety and efficacy by merely accepting the stated claims of a testing kit without the proper regulatory certification from the country of origin and a reliable NRA. These kits may give false positive and false negative results which may affect the response to this pandemic. They may also counterfeit products that will not test for the novel corona virus at all," FDA Director General Eric Domingo said.

The only COVID-19 diagnostic test kits used now are PCR based lab kits at the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM) donated by WHO; and the University of the Philippines National Institutes of Health (UP NIH) and Department of Science and Technology (DOST) developed test kit scheduled to start field testing on Monday, March 16, 2020.

To safeguard the public health during this difficult times, this Office strongly advises the Local Government Units (LGUs), Head of Health Facilities/Hospital Administrators and general public to cooperate and be vigilant. Please be guided accordingly.

  
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Director IV