



Republic of the Philippines
Department Of Health
Eastern Visayas
Center for Health Development



April 21, 2020

COVID-19 ADVISORY NO. 014

SUBJECT: Adoption of the Revised Interim Guidelines on Expanded Testing for COVID-19.

In view of the ongoing threat of the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Department of Health (DOH) underscores the importance of having full and accurate picture of COVID-19 in the country. Hence, the release of **Department Memorandum No. 2020-0180** entitled "**Revised Interim Guidelines on Expanded Testing for COVID-19**".

With the increasing number of COVID-19 confirmed and suspected cases in the region, the DOH-Eastern Visayas Center for Health Development (DOH-EVCHD) enjoins all local government units (LGUs) and/or health facilities to adopt and comply with the above-mentioned memorandum for the testing and management of COVID-19 while being cognizant of the following:

1. Based on current available evidence, real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing remains to be the gold standard in determining whether a person is COVID-19 – infected and/or infectious.
2. Rapid antibody – based test kits shall not be used as standalone tests to definitively diagnose or rule out COVID-19. This can only be used as an adjunct tool and a supplement for RT-PCR tests.

For those tested with Antibody Rapid Test with Reactive IgM results, please see the above-mentioned issuance for appropriate management of suspects.

Please be guided accordingly.

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