



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



September 7, 2020

COVID-19 ADVISORY NO. 028

SUBJECT: Infection Prevention During Transfer and Transport of Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 Patients and Close Contacts

As COVID-19 is a new infectious disease which requires contact and droplet precautions, lapses in infection prevention and control can easily happen at vulnerable moments such as during transfer¹ and transport.

Let us all be reminded of the important notice from the World Health Organization for COVID-19 outbreaks which is to **Avoid the “Three Cs”**:

1. Closed Spaces with poor ventilation (e.g. ambulance)
2. Crowded places with many people nearby
3. Close-contact settings such as close-range conversations

Thus, the DOH – EV CHD issues this advisory to serve as guidance for Local Government Units (LGUs) and public and private health facilities to strictly practice infection prevention and control measures during transfer and transport of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients, as well as their close contacts.

For vehicles transporting suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients, ideally, a maximum of only four (4) passengers, namely: the driver, healthcare worker, the suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient, and one (1) significant other/ “bantay” are allowed to ride the transfer or transport vehicle, in order to maintain the appropriate distancing and prevent the further spread of the COVID-19 virus. In no way should a confirmed positive patient be transported in one transport vehicle with other patients.

¹ Infection prevention during transfer and transport of Patients with Suspected COVID-19 requiring hospital care, Interim Guidance, 27 March 2020, World Health Organization Western Pacific Region



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



Vehicles transporting close contacts of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases to and from the swabbing facilities must observe the appropriate capacity and passenger load factors to ensure that physical distancing is followed.

The wearing of face mask, face shield or other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), is compulsory for ALL individuals riding within the transfer or transport vehicles AT ALL TIMES. In addition, a thorough disinfection and/or decontamination of vehicle for each time it is used to transport a confirmed COVID-19 case is strictly required.

For your guidance and strict compliance.

MINERVA P. MOLON, MD, MPH, FPPA, CESO III

Director IV