



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

PUBLIC ADVISORY NO. 01 – 2021

UPDATED TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVELLERS BOUND FOR THE PHILIPPINES FROM COUNTRIES WITH CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19 B.1.1.7 STRAIN

The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago wishes to inform the public of the following additional measures relative to the SARS-COV-2 variant (B.1.1.7) first detected in the United Kingdom, based on the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary:

- I. **Inclusion of the United States of the America (US) among the countries subject to travel restrictions**
 - A. **Foreign passengers coming from the US, or who have been to the US within 14 days** immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, shall be **prohibited from entering the country effective 0001H of 03 January 2021, Manila time, until 15 January 2021;**
 - B. Effective immediately, **foreign passengers coming from the US, or who have been to the US within 14 days** immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, **arriving before 0001H of 03 January 2021, Manila time**, shall not be prohibited from entering the Philippines, but shall be **required to undergo an absolute facility-based 14-day quarantine** period notwithstanding a negative Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) result; and
 - C. Likewise, effective immediately, **Filipino citizens** coming from the US, or who have been to the US within 14 days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, including those **arriving before 0001H 03 January 2021, Manila time**, shall not be prohibited from entering the country, but shall be **required to undergo an absolute facility-based 14-days quarantine** period notwithstanding a negative RT-PCR result.
- II. **Rules applicable to Filipino and foreign passengers merely transiting through a country covered by the travel restrictions**
 - A. **All passengers**, whether Filipinos or foreigners, **merely transiting through any of the countries covered** by the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 29 December 2020 and subsequent inclusions thereto (“covered country”), shall not be deemed as having been to such covered country, **provided they stayed in the airport the whole time and were not cleared for entry into the covered country by its immigration authorities;**
 - B. **Upon arrival in the Philippines**, passengers covered by the immediately preceding paragraph need not complete a full 14-day facility-based quarantine, and may be **allowed home quarantine upon testing negative on RT-PCR at point of entry**, pursuant to existing protocols of the national government;
 - C. **Transiting foreign passengers who left the airport** or were **cleared for entry** into the covered country **by the Immigration authorities shall be prohibited from entering the Philippines;**
 - D. **Transiting Filipino citizens** who have left the airport or were cleared for entry into the covered country by its immigration authorities shall not be prohibited from entering the Philippines but shall be **required to undergo an absolute facility-based 14-day quarantine period** notwithstanding a **negative RT-PCR result.**



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IN VIEW HEREOF, the following guidelines are adopted by the Bureau of Immigration:

A. For arriving **FILIPINO NATIONALS**

They shall be allowed entry but subject to RT-PCR test, quarantine and isolation protocols issued by the Department of Health (DOH)

B. For arriving **FOREIGN NATIONALS**

- Those **coming from or who have been to the 21 travel-restricted countries (i.e., with immigration admission to said countries and not mere lay-over at the airport)**, within 14 days immediately preceding arrival to the Philippines shall **NOT be allowed entry**.

The above prohibition to enter the Philippines **shall apply to ALL foreigners regardless of their visa category** (including 9E visa) or previously issued endorsement or exemption from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) / privileges (Under RA 6768-Balikbayan) during the duration of the travel ban.

- Effective immediately, those who: **(a) transited or who have a mere lay-over at the airport of the 21 travel-restricted countries** (lay-over only at the airport and with no immigration admission at said countries); and **(b) those NOT coming from** these countries may be allowed entry, **PROVIDED** they are authorized to enter the country thru relevant resolutions of the IATF-MEID and **subjected to RT-PCR test, quarantine and isolation protocols issued by the Department of Health (DOH)**.

Existing guidelines for arriving crew member/s shall still be observed.

The foregoing is without prejudice to the exercise of the mandate of the Bureau of Immigration in Arrival and Departure Immigration formalities.

The 21 travel-restricted countries:

1	United Kingdom of Great Britain	12	Iceland
2	Denmark	13	Italy
3	Ireland	14	Lebanon
4	Japan	15	Singapore
5	Australia	16	Sweden
6	Israel	17	South Korea
7	The Netherlands	18	South Africa
8	Hong Kong, SAR	19	Canada
9	Switzerland	20	Spain
10	France	21	United States of America – Effective 0001H 03 January 2021
11	Germany		

For visa-related questions, please do not hesitate to email us at chicagopcg.visa@att.net. **END**

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