



# CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

PUBLIC ADVISORY NO. 09-2020

## POSTPONEMENT OF CONSULAR OUTREACHES IN THE MIDWEST AND NEW REGULATIONS ON CONSULAR SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### 1. Postponement of Consular Outreachs

Further to our announcement dated 10 March 2020 on the postponement of the Consular Outreach in Omaha, Nebraska scheduled on 18 April 2020, the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago wishes to announce that **all Consular Outreachs scheduled this year will be deferred indefinitely until the COVID-19 situation stabilizes**. New dates will be announced at soon as practicable.

Holders of expired Philippine passports and those with passports expiring in the next six months, are encouraged to apply for renewal at the Consulate as soon as possible. Other applicants with urgent consular needs are also encouraged to get in touch directly with the Consulate immediately. Those with non-urgent needs who can defer their transactions for a few months are encouraged to postpone their applications until the situation improves.

### 2. Passport

Effective 12 March 2020 until July 2020 (or until the COVID-19 situation improves or stabilizes), the releasing of passports will be done by mail only. Personal pickup of new passports will not be allowed in order to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection to the public. Applicants should ensure that they can monitor or track their mailing envelopes in order to avoid the loss of their new passport.

### 3. Civil Registration

Effective 12 March 2020 until July 2020 (or until the COVID-19 situation improves or stabilizes), all civil registry applicants are highly encouraged to send their applications for Reports of Birth, Marriage and Death by mail in order to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection to the public. Forms and information on fees are downloadable at <http://www.chicagopcq.com/forms.html>.

### 4. Dual Citizenship

The Consulate will continue to accept and process applications for dual citizenship under R.A. 9225. However, the oath taking ceremony for approved dual citizenship applicants will be suspended from May to July 2020 and will only resume in August 2020 (or until the COVID-19 situation improves or stabilizes). This is being done in order to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection to the public.

### 5. Mailed-In Visa Applications

Effective immediately, all visa applicants must submit their **notarized** applications through mail. In addition to the usual requirements, applicants must also submit their 30-day travel history, including travel by sea. For the application form and usual requirements, please visit <http://www.chicagopcq.com/forms.html>.



## **6. Health and Safety Regulations for Applicants Coming to the Consulate**

For the mutual protection of all clients and Consular personnel, the following regulations are hereby imposed:

- a) Only clients will be allowed entry to the Consulate's client waiting area. Accompanying family members or friends of the client should wait at the ground lobby or outside the building.
- b) All clients are required to bring their own hand sanitizer, rubbing alcohol or sanitary wipes. Clients must use them before entering and upon exiting the Consulate premises.
- c) Clients will be screened for temperature and/or illness.
- d) Persons who have a fever (100.4F temperature) or are feeling feverish (above 98.6F), have difficulty breathing, or have a cough or sore/dry/itchy throat are strongly advised to postpone their visit to the Consulate until they have become better and have contacted a health professional. Persons who exhibit flu-like symptoms (such as sore throat, cough, shortness of breath) shall not be allowed to enter the Consulate premises.
- e) Those who have had close contact with persons with COVID-19 and/or travelers returning from affected international locations with reported community spread (e.g., China, Iran, Italy, South Korea) are advised to stay home as prescribed by health authorities.

**Chicago, 11 March 2020**