January 10, 2020

MEMORANDUM

FOR: HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STAFF OPERATIONS CENTER INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

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SUBJECT: Heightened Case Detection for Appropriate Response Regarding Cluster of Novel Coronavirus Cases in Wuhan, China via Influenza-like Illness Surveillance

Whereas, Republic Act 3573 entitled "Law of Reporting of Communicable Diseases" requires all individuals and health facilities to report notifiable diseases to local and national health authorities.

Whereas, Resolution WHA58.3 (2005) formally adopted the revised International Health Regulations that further urged Member States to carry out surveillance at all levels to diseases or events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern and contribute fully to international health security.

Whereas, the Department of Health issued Administrative Order 2007-0036 establishing the Philippine Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (PIDSIR) Framework for Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and other Health Events through the Epidemiology Bureau, also the National Focal Point for IHR 2005.

Whereas, Republic Act 11332 or also known as “Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Concern” enforce mandatory reporting of notifiable diseases and public health emergencies and threats in the country.
Due to the high concern regarding Cluster of new coronavirus Pneumonia Cases in Wuhan, China and in the event of the entry of potential cases of this novel virus in the country, an extensive epidemic similar to the SARS multi-country outbreak in 2003 can be averted by providing clear guidelines on public health interventions that can be instituted for prevention and control of viral respiratory infections such as those caused by these coronaviruses. The DOH hereby issues this surveillance memo.

General Principles
1. The aim of this surveillance is for early detection of this novel coronavirus pneumonia for appropriate response when the extent and speed/spread of transmission of the disease among specific populations and in geographic areas is appropriately determined.
2. Surveillance of diseases requires capability for laboratory confirmation of the disease causative agent.
3. As more information is gathered, analysed and situations changed, surveillance activities are shifted towards long term monitoring of the disease.

Objectives
1. To describe early epidemiological, virological and clinical characteristics of this novel coronavirus pneumonia.
2. To establish mechanism for coordination among existing surveillance system in terms of case detection, confirmation, validation, investigation, reporting and feedback.
3. To provide recommendations for preventive and control measures.
4. To provide flow of communication between participating agencies.

Thank you.