UPDATES ON TEMPORARY TRAVEL AND VISA RESTRICTIONS TO AND FROM THE PHILIPINES PERTAINING TO COVID-19

Based on Resolutions No. 8 and 9 of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) dated 26 February and March 2020, respectively, the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago informs travelers in the Midwest of the following temporary travel and visa restrictions to and from the Philippines:

1. For Travelers Entering the Philippines from North Gyeongsang Province, South Korea

A temporary ban of entry into the Philippines has been imposed on:

- any person coming from the North Gyeongsang Province (including Daegu City and Cheongdo County) of South Korea.
- any person who has been to the North Gyeongsang Province (including Daegu City and Cheongdo County) of South Korea within 14 days immediately preceding their arrival in the Philippines.

In this regard, visa issuance to foreign nationals, who fall under the two above-mentioned categories and who are required to secure a visa prior to entering the Philippines, shall also be temporarily suspended until further notice.

Filipino citizens, including their foreign spouses and children, holders of Permanent Resident Visas, and holders of Diplomatic Visas issued by the Philippine Government are exempted from the temporary travel ban but must follow the health protocols of the Department of Health.

2. For Filipino Travelers Going to North Gyeongsang Provce, South Korea

A temporary travel restriction has been imposed on all Filipinos traveling into North Gyeongsang Province (including Daegu City and Cheongdo County) of South Korea.

All Filipinos going to South Korea (with the exception of North Gyeongsang Province including Daegu City and Cheongdo County) are allowed to proceed with their journey provided that they shall execute and sign a declaration signifying their knowledge and understanding of the risks involved in proceeding with their trip. All travelers shall likewise be handed out a healthy advisory pamphlet upon departure.

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), students studying in South Korea, and those with Permanent Resident status are not restricted to travel into South Korea.

OFWs (whether returning or newly-hired) as well as dependents of permanent residents are allowed to return to South Korea but they must also execute a Declaration signifying their knowledge and understanding of the risks involved upon their return to the country.

The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago continues to closely monitor the situation and is coordinating with the Filipino community in the Midwest to ensure the safety of our kababayans. In support of U.S. government efforts, the Consulate reminds the Filipino and Filipino-American communities in the Midwest to take the necessary precautions against the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), e.g., frequent and extra care in washing hands, use of hand sanitizers, use of antiseptic mouthwash, being mindful of crowds and surroundings, covering nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, consulting a doctor if experiencing symptoms (particularly after travel abroad or by a family member). For questions or any urgent requests for assistance, please do not hesitate to call us at (312) 583-09621 or email us at chicagopcg@att.net.

Chicago, 4 March 2020