



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

PUBLIC ADVISORY NO. 10 - 2021

CONFIRMATION OF BRAZIL P.1 VARIANT OF COVID-19 VIRUS IN MINNESOTA

The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago wishes to inform the Filipino and Filipino-American communities in the Midwest that the first U.S. COVID-19 case associated with the Brazil P.1 variant of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, has been confirmed in Minnesota.

As announced by the Minnesota Department of Health on 25 January 2021, the variant was found in a specimen from a Minnesota resident with recent travel history to Brazil. The variant is said to be more transmissible than the initial strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, although the severity of the illness it causes is still unknown.

The patient is a resident of the Twin Cities metropolitan area, and became ill in the first week of January 2021. The sample was collected on 9 January 2021. He reported traveling to Brazil prior to his illness.

The Filipino and Filipino-American communities in the Midwest, particularly those in Minnesota, are advised to continue following guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as state and local health authorities to prevent and protect against COVID-19 infection, including: wearing a mask; staying at home unless for essential errands; maintaining a distance of at least six feet from others and limiting face-to-face interactions; washing hands or using hand sanitizers frequently and thoroughly; refraining from touching your face, other people, and high-touch items in public places; frequently disinfecting premises and work areas; avoiding travel to places with high incidence of COVID-19; exercising, getting sufficient sleep and eating healthy food to strengthen immunity; covering nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing; and isolating and consulting a doctor if experiencing symptoms. Please take extra precautions for your and your family's health and safety.

Chicago, 27 January 2021