



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

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17 February 2020

CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
No. 53-2020

To: The Assistant Commissioner
All Deputy Commissioners
All Directors and Division Chiefs
All District/Port Collectors
And Others Concerned

SUBJECT: FAQs on Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Attached is a copy of the letter dated 29 January 2020 from Mr. Francisco T. Duque III, MD, MSc, Secretary of Health endorsing a copy of the Department of Health official 2019-nCov information materials and health advisories.

For your information and guidance.

For record purposes, please confirm the dissemination of this circular throughout your offices within fifteen (15) days from receipt hereof.

REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERO

Commissioner

FEB 21 2020



BOC-09-11259

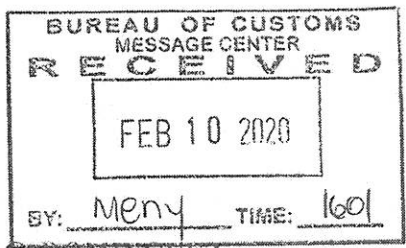
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Republic of the Philippines



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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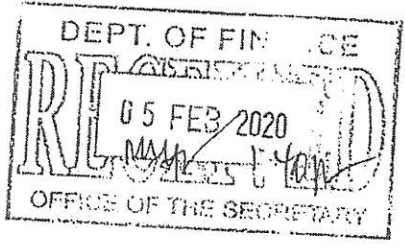


To Mr. Usee / CS / Asee / Hon

29 January 2020

SECRETARY CARLOS G. DOMINGUEZ

Secretary
Department of Finance
BSP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila



Dear Secretary Dominguez:

The spread of the 2019 Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) from Wuhan, China to multiple countries around the world have caused distress and panic among Filipinos. As the lead government agency in protecting the Filipino people from various diseases, the Department of Health (DOH) wishes to provide the public with the right information about 2019-nCoV.

The DOH has activated the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases to provide guidance to the whole-of-government response. All updates related to this response has also been posted on the DOH webpage dedicated for 2019-nCoV updates.

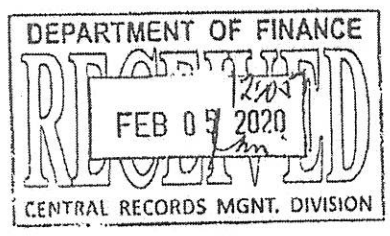
In view of the need to keep the public abreast with accurate and relevant information, we are seeking the assistance of your good office to facilitate dissemination of official 2019-nCoV information materials and health advisories to all attached agencies, offices, and other clients under your jurisdiction, which can be accessed at www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV. Rest assured that the website will be regularly updated with factual information for public consumption.

For any inquiry or concern, please do not hesitate to reach us.

Thank you for your usual support and cooperation.

Yours truly,


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health



FAQs on Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

1. What are coronaviruses?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses causing a range of illnesses, from the common cold to more serious infections such as those caused by Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-related Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-related Coronavirus (SARS-CoV). Coronavirus can also cause a variety of diseases in farm animals and domesticated pets.

2. What are the symptoms and possible complications of a coronavirus infection?

Common signs of coronavirus infection include flu-like and respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. In severe cases, it can cause pneumonia, acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and even death.

3. Where did the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) originate?

On 31 December 2019, a clustering of pneumonia cases of unknown etiology was reported in Wuhan, China. The outbreak was later determined to be caused by a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), a new coronavirus strain that has not been previously identified in humans.

4. How is the 2019-nCoV transmitted?

On January 24, 2020, the World Health Organization has confirmed human-to-human transmission largely in Wuhan City, China. However, there is not enough information yet to draw a definitive conclusion about the intensity of human-to-human transmission, full clinical features, and the original source of the outbreak.

Health experts are accelerating research to study the origins of the virus and how it is spreading. The virus has been differentiated from SARS and MERS, but its contagiousness and virulence is still being studied.

5. Is there a treatment and vaccine for the 2019-nCoV?

There is no specific treatment for any coronavirus including the 2019-nCoV. However, many of the symptoms can be treated based on the patient's clinical conditions. Supportive care for infected persons can also be highly effective.

To date, there remains to be no vaccines for the new strain of coronavirus, hence, the existing Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccines (PCVs) are ineffective against 2019-nCoV.

6. What should you do if you are experiencing mild flu-like symptoms, but have not traveled to China recently or have not been in close contact with anyone who traveled to China?

In this case, there is no need to be tested for 2019-nCoV. Please consult at your nearest health facility as deemed necessary.

7. What should hospitals with suspected case/s of the 2019-nCoV do?

The designated infection control committee (ICC) of the hospital shall be responsible for the preliminary investigation of suspected cases. Once the case is classified as a person under investigation (PUI), he/she should be quarantined. The ICC should then notify the DOH Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Units (RESU), who shall then report to the DOH Epidemiology Bureau.

Hospitals with PUIs in quarantine will also send the collected specimens (oropharyngeal and nasal swabs) to Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM) for screening.

The DOH also encourages health workers to be vigilant and take extra precautionary measures when in contact with patients with acute respiratory infection, especially those with travel history to China.

Finally, all health facilities must enhance their standard infection prevention and control practices, especially in their emergency departments.

8. What can the public do to prevent the spread of 2019-nCoV?

DOH advises the public to:

- a. Practice frequent and proper handwashing,
- b. Practice proper cough etiquette
 - i. Always bring a handkerchief/tissue
 - ii. Cover mouth and nose using handkerchief/tissue (sleeves or crook of the elbow may also be used to cover the mouth when coughing or sneezing)
 - iii. Move away from people when coughing
 - iv. Do not spit
 - v. Throw away used tissues properly
 - vi. Always wash your hands after sneezing or coughing
 - vii. Use alcohol/sanitizer
- c. Avoid unprotected contact with farm or wild animals
- d. Ensure that food is well-cooked
- e. Maintain a healthy lifestyle to mount up immunity

9. Who should be immediately investigated and tested for the 2019-nCoV infection?

The following should be immediately investigated and tested for nCoV:

- 1) A person with severe acute respiratory infection (SARI), fever and cough, and with at least one of the following:
 - a) history of travel to or lived in Wuhan in the 10-14 days prior to symptom onset;
 - b) A health worker who has been working in an environment where patients with severe acute respiratory infections are being cared for, without regard to place of residence or history of travel;
- 2) A person with acute respiratory infection (ARI) and fulfilling at least one of the following criteria within the 14 days prior to onset of illness:
 - a) Close contact with a confirmed or probable case
 - b) visit/work in a live animal market in Wuhan
 - c) Work/attend a health facility where patients with HAI-associated 2019-nCoV reported.

11. Are there any travel restrictions to be observed?

There are no travel restrictions recommended as of the moment. Currently, the transmission potential and modes of transmission remain unclear. Hence, we advise those who will travel to affected areas to avoid crowded places, close contact with live or wild animals, and to observe handwashing and cough etiquette. DOH is in close coordination with the WHO and the China Center for Disease Control on developments and updates regarding travel advisories.

12. Where can the public get information about the 2019-nCoV?

The public can get information about the 2019-nCoV from the DOH's and WHO's official press releases, website, and official social media platforms. Please be wary of fake news and reports circulating online, and always verify the sources of your information.

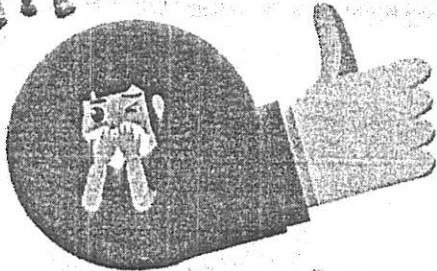
13. What are the DOH and other concerned agencies doing to contain the situation?

The Department of Health is closely monitoring individuals who manifested signs of respiratory infection and had a history of travel to China, and is coordinating with WHO and China Center for Disease Control for updates.

DOH is also enhancing its coronavirus laboratory testing capacity, hospital preparedness, rapid response, and its risk communication and information dissemination. Personal Protective Equipment are made available at the Bureau of Quarantine, Centers for Health Development, and DOH Hospitals.

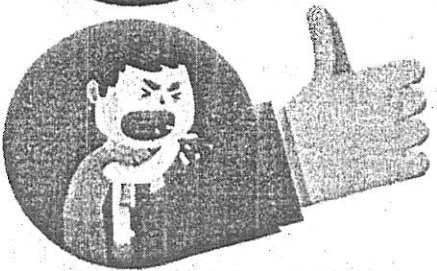
The Bureau of Quarantine, meanwhile, is working with airlines and airport authorities to strengthen border surveillance, while the Epidemiology Bureau is heightening its community surveillance.

DAPAT BA AKONG MAGSUOT NG FACE MASK?



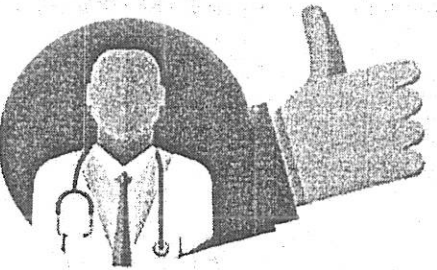
Oo!

Kapag may ubo't sipon, respiratory symptoms, o nahihirapang huminga.



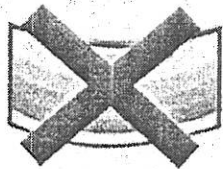
Oo!

Kapag may inaalagaang pasyente na may ubo't sipon/ respiratory symptoms.



Oo!

Kapag ikaw ay health worker na nag-aalaga ng mga pasyenteng may respiratory symptoms



Hindi na!

Sa publiko na walang sintomas ng ubo't sipon/ respiratory symptoms.

HINDI SAPAT ang paggamit ng **FACE MASK** lamang. Kinakailangan gawin din ang ibang pang paraan upang makaiwas sa mga sakit.

IMPORTANTANG HAND WASHING!!!



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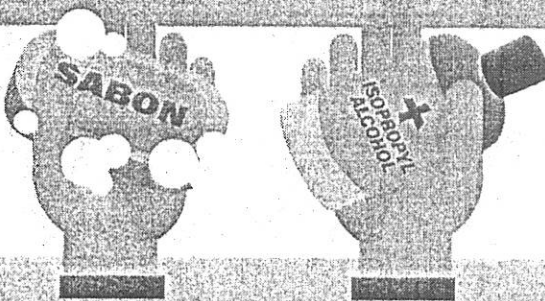
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PROTEKTAHAN ANG SARILI LABAN SA 2019-nCoV

Kung maari ay umiwas muna
sa mga matataong lugar.

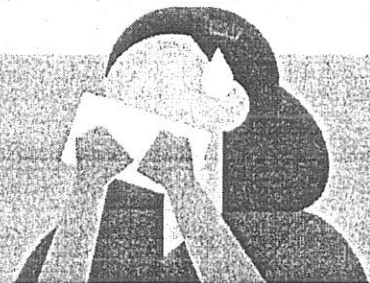
Panatilihin ang isang metrong
layo sa mga taong may sintomas
ng ubo't sipon o sakit sa baga.

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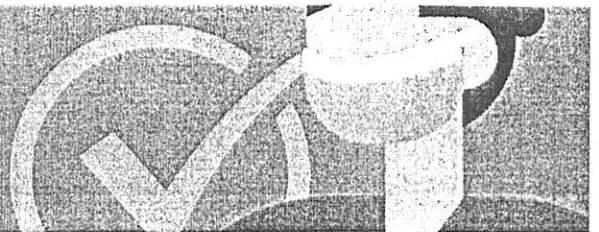
Maghugas lagi ng kamay gamit ang
sabon at umaagos na tubig o mag-
pahid ng alcohol-based na sanitizer.

Takpan ang ilong at bibig sa tuwing
babahing at uubo. Gumamit ng tissue,
panyo, o ang looban ng siko.



Iwasang hawakan ang ilong at bibig.
Ugaliing maghugas lagi ng mga kamay.

Gumamit ng face mask kung ikaw ay
may ubo't sipon o naman ay may inaa-
lagaang pasyente na mayroong
sintomas ng respiratory illness.



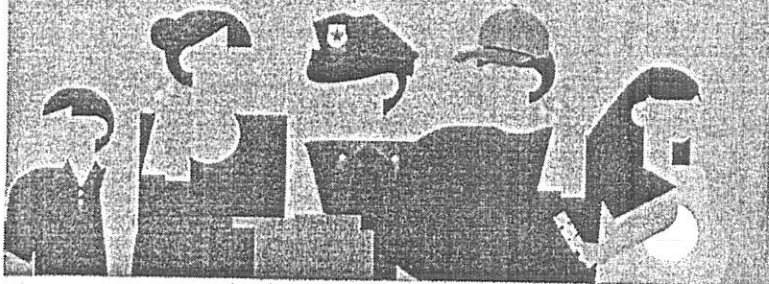
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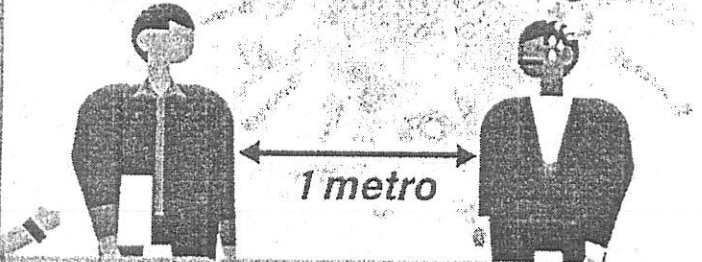
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PROTEKTAHAN ANG SARILI LABAN SA 2019-nCoV

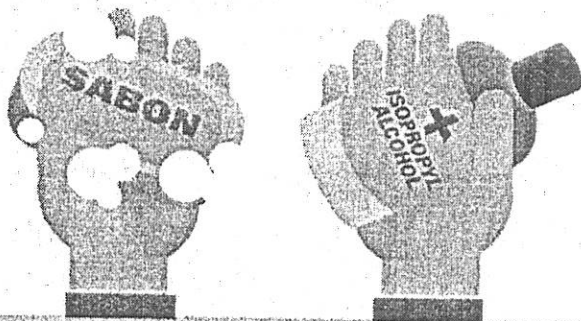
Kung maari ay umiwas muna sa mga matataong lugar.



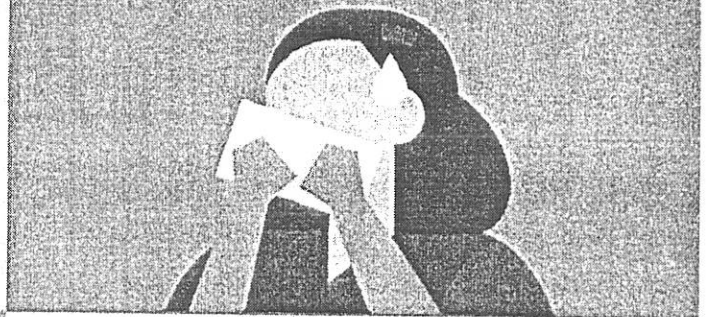
Panatilihin ang isang metrong layo sa mga taong may sintomas ng ubo't sipon o sakit sa baga.



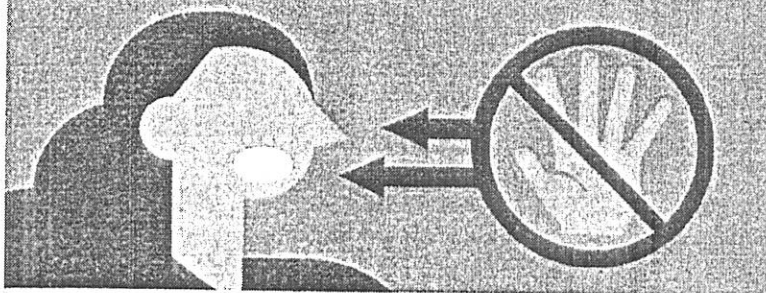
Takpan ang ilong at bibig sa tuwing babahing at uubo. Gamitin ang tissue, panyo, o ang looban ng siko.



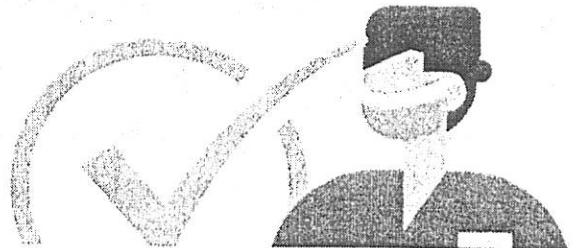
Maghugas lagi ng kamay gamit ang sabon at umaagos na tubig o magpahid ng alcohol-based na sanitizer.



Iwasang hawakan ang ilong at bibig. Ugaliing maghugas lagi ng mga kamay.



Gumamit ng face mask kung ikaw ay may ubo't sipon, o kaya naman ay may inaalagaang pasyente na mayroong sintomas ng respiratory illness.



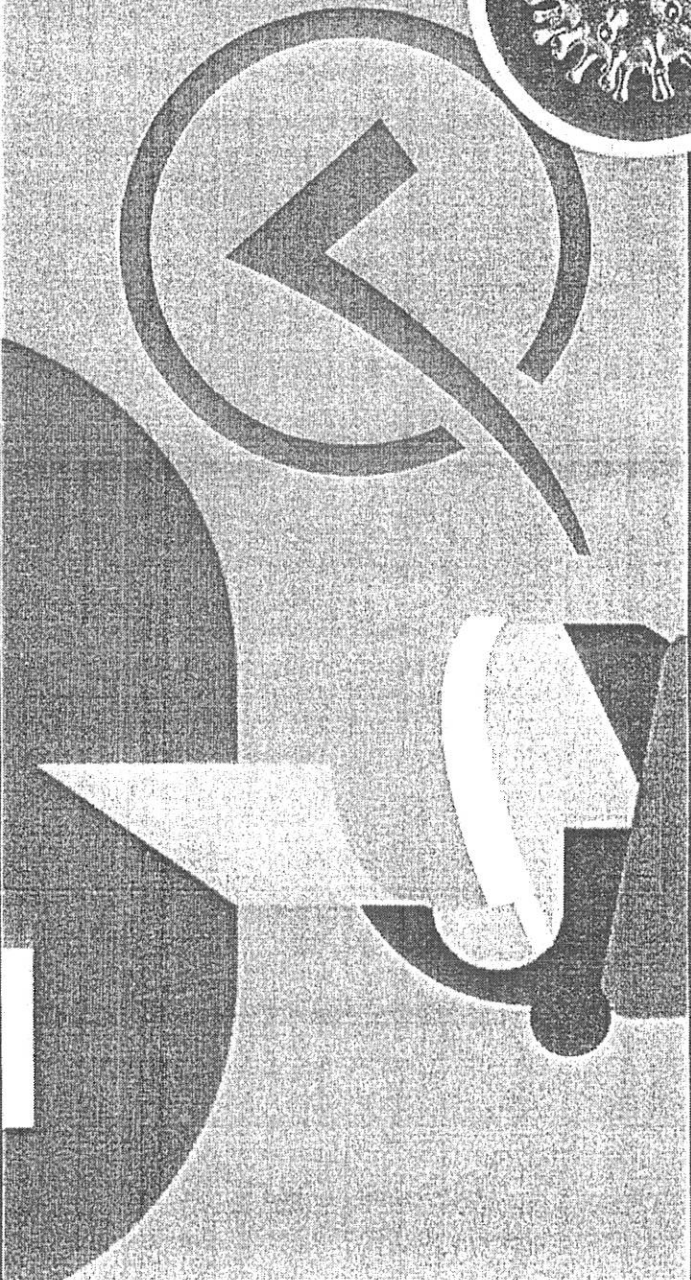
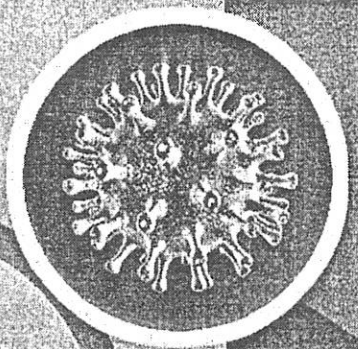
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DOH HEALTH ADVISORY

PROTEKTAHAN ANG SABILI SABANTANG 2019-NCOV



Gumamit ng face mask kung ikaw ay may ubo't sipon o naman ay may inaalagaang pasyente na mayroong sintomas ng respiratory illness



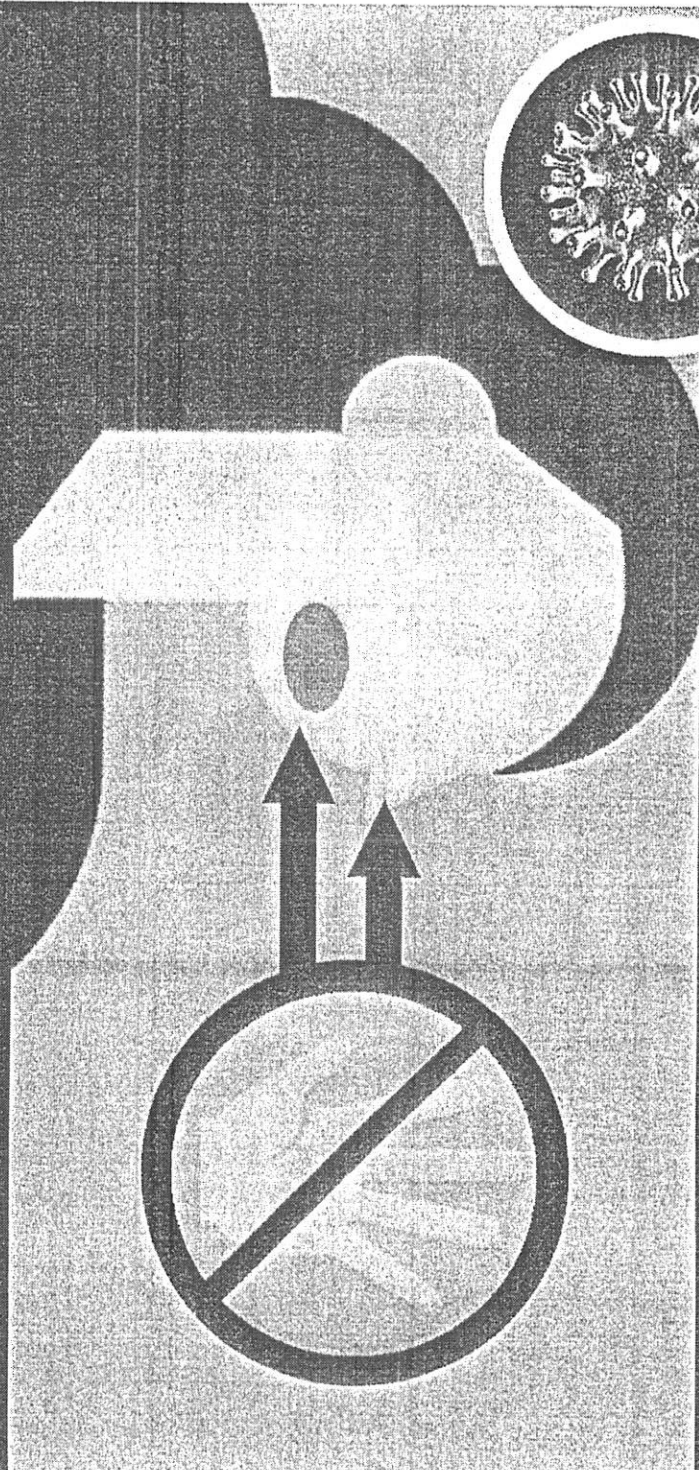
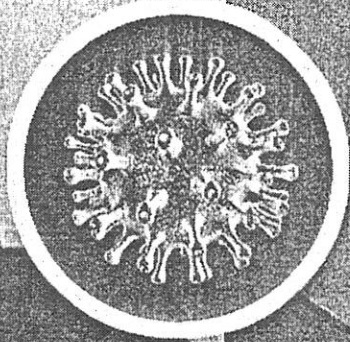
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**DOH HEALTH
ADVISORY**

**PROTEKTAHAN ANG SABILI
SA BANTA NG 2019-nCoV**



**Iwasang hawakan ang bibig at ilong.
Ugaling maghugas ng mga kamay.**



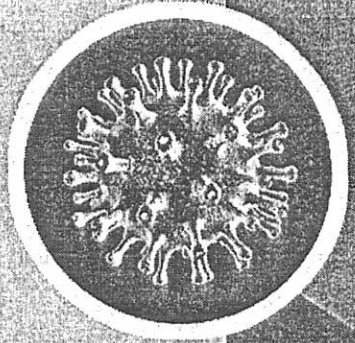
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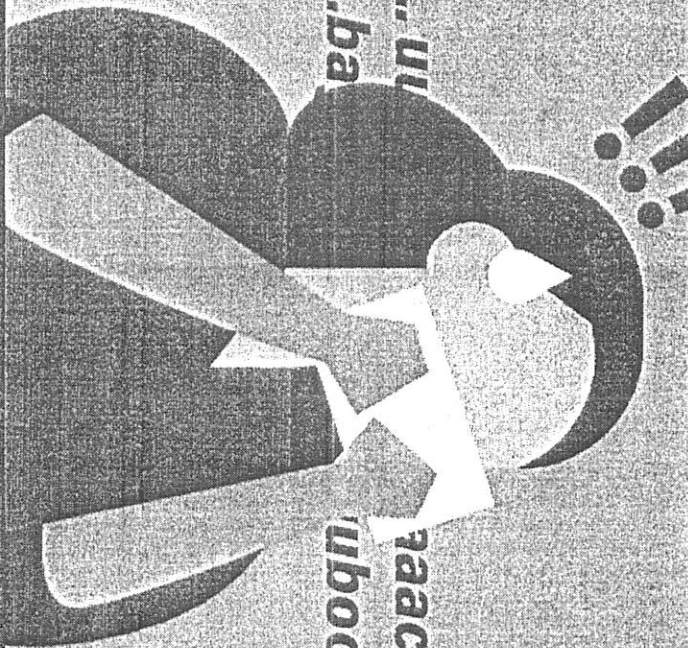
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ADVISORY**

PROTEKTAHAN ANG SARILI SABANTANG 2019-ncov

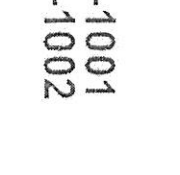
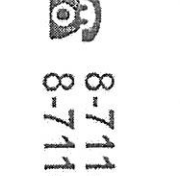


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aaachoo..uubo..ba



aaachooo..uboo
uboo..sniff..sniff

**Takpan ang ilong at bibig sa tuwing
babahing at uubo. Gumamit ng tissue,
panyo, o ang looban ng iyong siko.**



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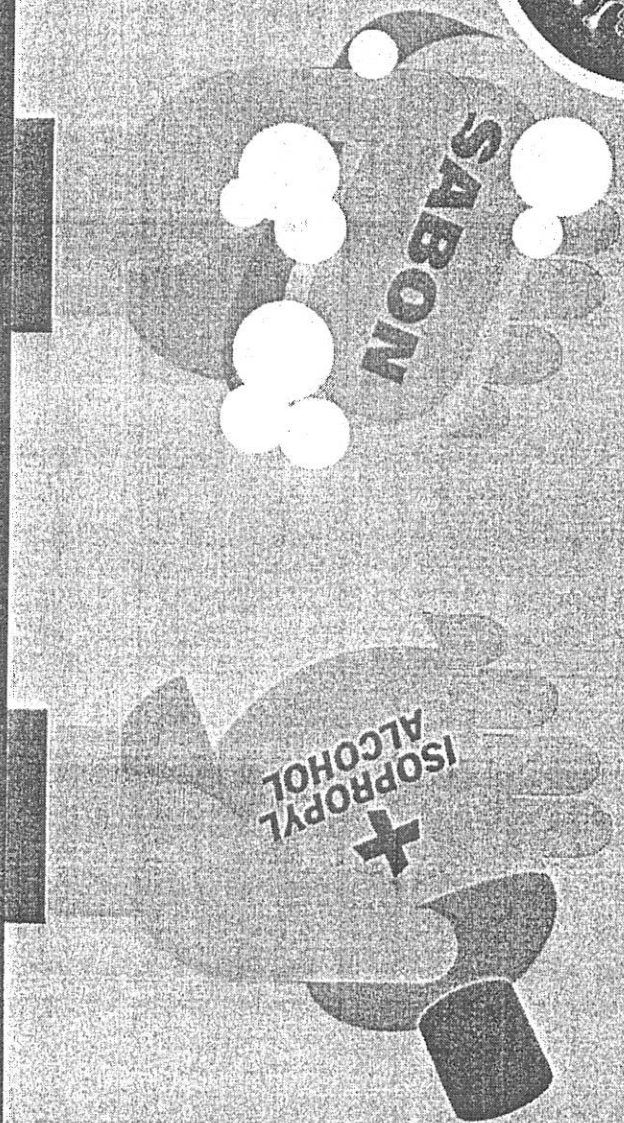
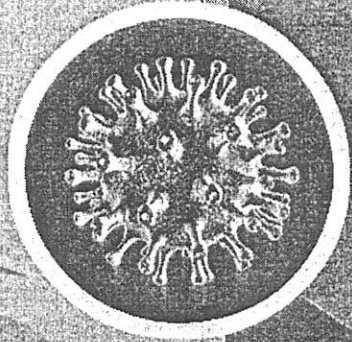
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PROTEKTAHAN ANG SABILI SA BANTANG 2019-ncov



**Maghugas lagi ng kamay gamit ng
sabon at umaagos na tubig o magpahid
ng alcohol-based na sanitizers**



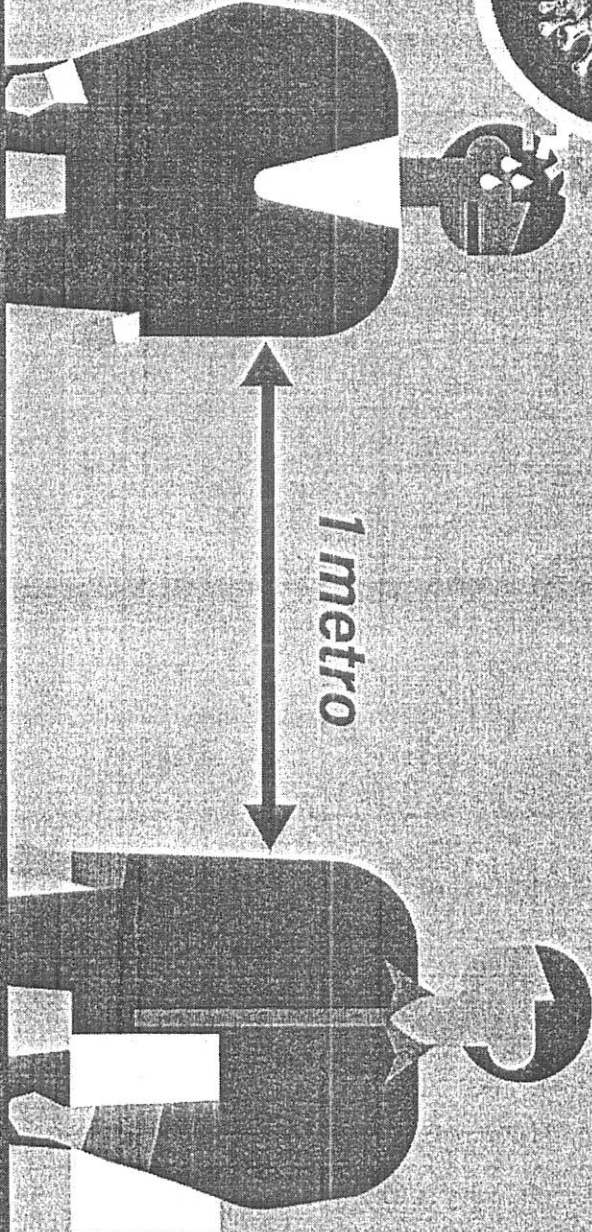
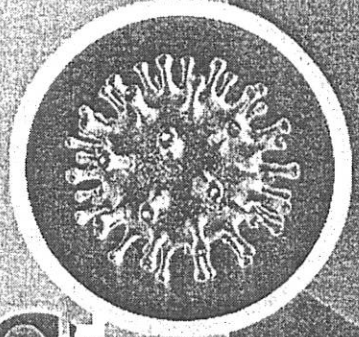
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PROTEKTAHAN ANG SARILI SA BANTA NG 2019-nCoV



**Panatilihin ang isang metrong layo
sa mga taong may mga respiratory
symptoms o ubo't sipon.**



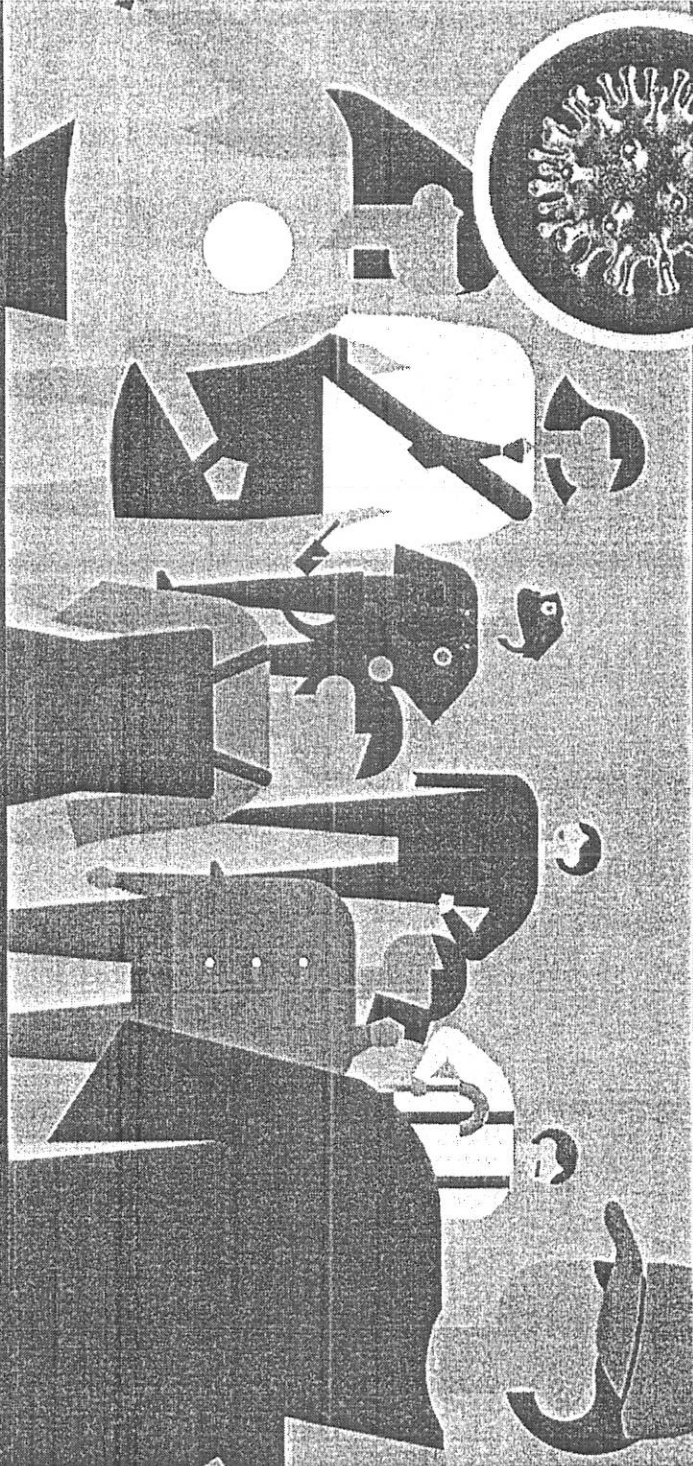
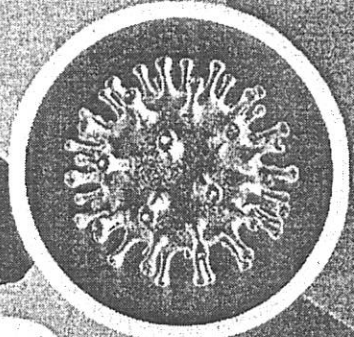
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**PROTEKTAHAN ANG SARILI
SABANTANG 2019-ncov**



**Kung maari ay umiwas muna
sa mga matataong lugar.**



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NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV ARD)

Para maiwasan at mapigilan ang 2019-nCoV sa mga paaralan
Siguruhing may sapat na pasilidad para sa paghuhugas ng
kamay tulad ng lababo, palikuran na may sapat na suplay nang
malinis na tubig at sabon, at basurahan sa loob ng paaralan.



**Makipag-ugnayan sa pinakamalapit na health facility
para sa karagdagang impormasyon.**



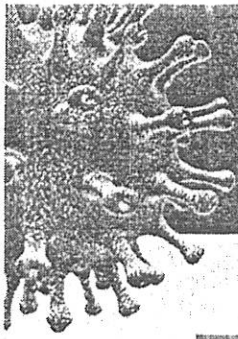
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DOH ADVISORY

2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES

REMEMBER "NCOV" BEFORE YOU SHARE

N

Never share unverified news/ articles

C

Check your sources before sharing

O

Only source information from DOH Official Channels

V

Verify news information at:

www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV



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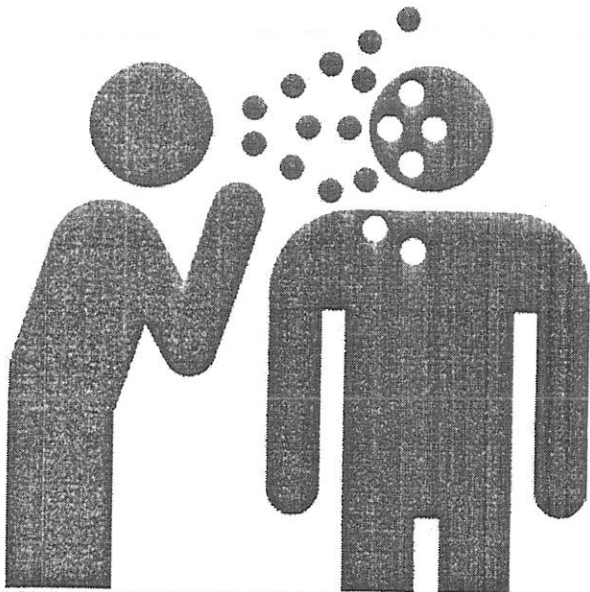


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MGA KATANUNGAN TUNGKOL SA CORONAVIRUS

Nakakahawa ba ang *coronavirus* ng tao sa tao?



Ayon sa kasalukuyang sitwasyon, may ilang *coronavirus* na maaaring maipasa ng tao sa tao (*human-to-human transmission*). Kadalasan ay nangyayari ito sa malapitang pakikipagsalamuha sa iba ng taong mayroon nito, gaya ng sa bahay, trabaho o health facility.

Makipag-ugnayan sa pinakamalapit na health facility para sa karagdagang impormasyon.



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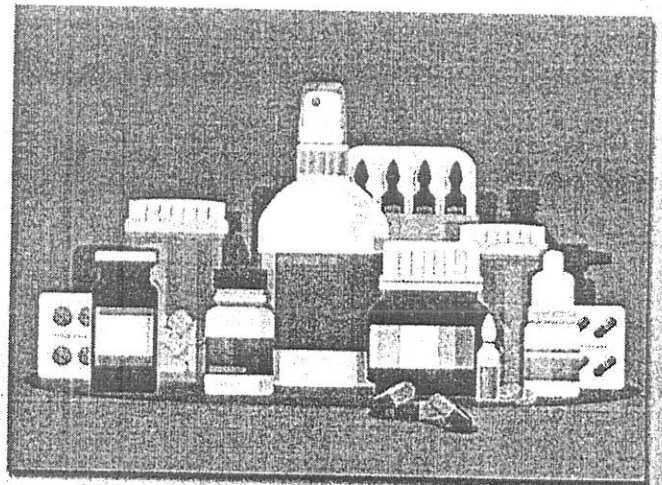
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MGA KATANUNGAN TUNGKOL SA CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)

May gamot ba sa *novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)*?

Wala pang gamot o bakuna laban sa 2019-nCoV. Supportive care at pag-aalaga base sa sintomas ang maaaring gawin para sa mga may kaso ng 2019-nCoV.



Makipag-ugnayan sa pinakamalapit na health facility para sa karagdagang impormasyon.



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MGA KATANUNGAN TUNGKOL SA CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)

Anu-ano ang mga sintomas na dulot ng novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?

Ang mga karaniwang sintomas na dulot ng coronavirus ay lagnat, ubo't sipon, hirap at pag-iksi ng paghinga at iba pang problema sa daluyan ng hangin.

* Sa mga malulubhang kaso, maaari itong maging sanhi ng pneumonia, acute respiratory syndrome, at pagkamatay.



Lagnat



Ubo



Hirap sa paghinga

Makipag-ugnayan sa pinakamalapit na health facility para sa karagdagang impormasyon.



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KALUSUGAN AT PANGANGAHI PARA SA LAHAT



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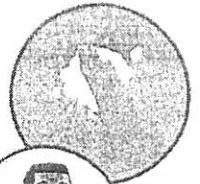


MGA KATANUNGAN TUNGKOL SA CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)

Ano ang magagawa mo upang maiwasan ang pagkalat ng *Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)*?

- Ugaliin ang madalas na paghuhugas ng kamay gamit ang sabon at tubig.
- Lumayo at takpan ang bibig at ilong kapag ubo at babahin gamit ang panyo/tissue.
- Umiwas sa mga taong may lagnat, ubo at sipon.
- Umiwas sa paghawak ng mga hayop na apektado ng coronavirus,
- Siguraduhing ang pagkain tulad ng karne at isda ay naluto nang maayos.

Maghugas ng kamay



Tamang paraan ng pag-ubo at pagbahin



Umiwas sa paghawak ng mga hayop



Lutuing mabuti ang mga pagkain



Makipag-ugnayan sa pinakamalapit na health facility para sa karagdagang impormasyon.



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MGA KATANUNGAN TUNGKOL SA CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)

Ano ang maaari kong gawin para maprotektahan ang sarili laban sa *Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)*?

Protektahan ang sarili laban sa novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) sa pamamagitan ng:



- Regular at wastong paghuhugas ng kamay gamit ang sabon at tubig.
- Pag-iwas sa malapitang pakikipag salamuha sa mga may lagnat, at ubo't sipon.
- Pagsisigurong malinis at naluto ng maayos ang pagkain tulad ng karne at isda.

Makipag-ugnayan sa pinakamalapit na health facility para sa karagdagang impormasyon.



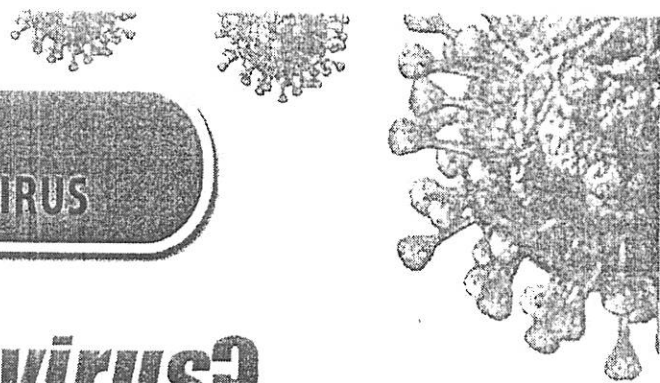
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MGA KATANUNGAN TUNGKOL SA CORONAVIRUS



Ano ang *Coronavirus*?

Ang **Coronaviruses** ay mga pamilya ng mga virus na nagdudulot ng sakit mula sa karaniwang sipon hanggang sa mas malubhang sakit tulad ng Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) at Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Ang **novel coronavirus** ay panibagong strain o uri ng coronavirus na hindi pa nakikita sa tao noon.



Makipag-ugnayan sa pinakamalapit na health facility para sa karagdagang impormasyon.



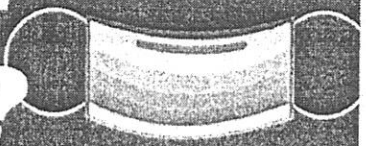
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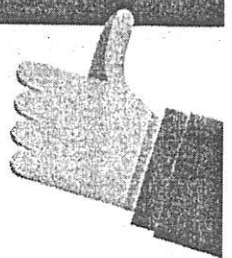


DAPAT BA AKONG MAGSUOT NG FACE MASK?



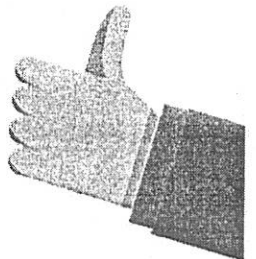
Kapag may ubo't sipon, respiratory symptoms, o nahihirapang huminga.

Oo!



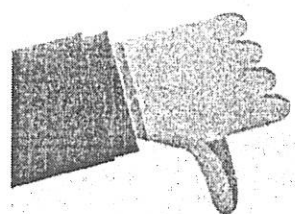
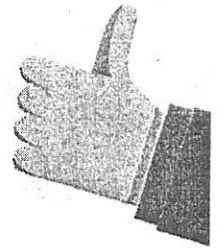
Kapag may inaalagaang pasyente na may ubo't sipon/ respiratory symptoms.

Oo!

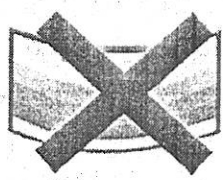


Kapag ikaw ay health worker na nag-aalaga ng mga pasyenteng may respiratory symptoms.

Oo!



Hindi na!



Sa publiko na walang sintomas ng ubo't sipon/ respiratory symptoms.

HINDI SAPAT ang paggamit ng FACE MASK lamang. Kinakailangan gawin din ang ibang pang paraan upang makaiwas sa mga sakit.

IMPORTANTANG HAND WASHING!!!



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