



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 12, 2020

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2020 - 0141

TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO; EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS AND NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA AND INSTITUTES; PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION; DIRECTORS OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL AND TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Public Advisory No. 17 - Guidance on the Conduct of Daily Prayer (Salah) for Filipinos with Islamic Faith

In view of the ongoing threat of the spread of the COVID-19, the Department of Health (DOH) hereby issues this guidance on the conduct of daily prayer or *Salah* for Filipinos with Islamic faith. It adapts the Islamic principle of *Darurah* (Necessity/Emergency) wherein what is prohibited is allowed in a particular situation.

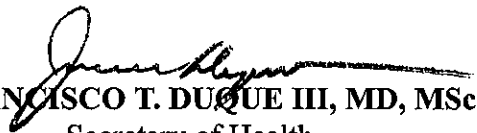
DOH advises to pray at home instead of congregational prayer or *Jama'ah* in the mosques and prayer rooms to avoid the spread of COVID-19.

Individuals who will opt to go to mosques or prayer rooms for their prayer, the DOH recommends the following precautionary measures:

1. Exercise due diligence when performing *Wuduh* (Ablution) and disinfect area after with 0.1% bleach.
2. Maintain social distancing during *Wuduh* and during *Salah*.
3. Refrain the usual social/physical greetings/contact after *Salah*.
4. Perform regular disinfection of the mosques/prayer rooms.
5. Continue with existing protocols in the mosques/prayer rooms that are related to infection control measures.
6. Observe general preventive measures such as frequent hand washing, cough etiquette and social distancing.

The Department of Health assures the public that all measures to contain the potential spread of COVID-19 infection are being explored, studied, and implemented to keep all Filipino people safe from the threats of this infectious disease. While the recommended measures may entail significant inconvenience, the health and safety of the public remain the priority of the DOH and the Philippine government.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.


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