



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 16, 2020

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2020 - 0142

TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS, SERVICES AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF HEALTH – BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO; EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS AND NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL; DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE; 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. 18 - Suggested Retail Price of N-88 Face Mask

The Department of Health (DOH) is mandated to monitor and regulate drug prices as well as ensure that consumers are adequately protected against profiteering, hoarding, cartels and the like that compromise their access to essential pharmaceutical products.

As stated in Section 6 of Republic Act no. 7581 or the "Price Act," it is the policy of the State to ensure the availability of basic necessities and prime commodities at all times.

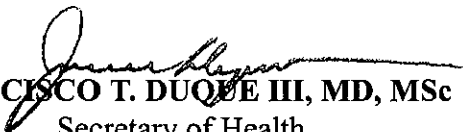
Essential medicines and medical supplies have been identified as basic necessities especially in times of natural calamities and man-made disasters that put the health and lives of Filipinos at risk because of unfavorable conditions that cause or aggravate disease which may lead to epidemics and massive death.

Due to the ongoing global concern on the rapid spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-2019) and the rising consumer demand for the N-88 face mask, prices of said commodity is increasing in the international market and directly affects the domestic prices.

In the interest of protecting the interests of consumers and enabling business in the country, the Suggested Retail Price (SRP) for N-88 face mask (surgical mask) will now be at **P28.00 per piece** in the entire country.

Unless otherwise lifted by the President, it shall remain in effect for the duration of the Public Health Emergency.

For strict compliance of all concerned.


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