



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Office of the Secretary



June 3, 2025

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2025- 0252

TO : ALL CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORS; MINISTER OF HEALTH - BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO; EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA AND INSTITUTES; AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Reiteration of the Protocols for Prevention, Detection, and Management of Mpox

Mpox is caused by the monkeypox virus (MPXV), which has two recognized clades (I and II,) each with subclades a and b. The virus spreads through direct contact with skin or mucosal lesions of an infected person, their body fluids, respiratory droplets, or contaminated objects such as clothing or bedding. Transmission is more likely in situations involving close, intimate contact such as hugging, kissing, or sexual activity. Similarly, prolonged face-to-face interaction can also generate infectious respiratory particles. Common symptoms include skin rashes or lesions, fever, swollen lymph nodes, headache, muscle aches, back pain, sore throat, and low energy.

Given the continued human-to-human transmission of Mpox Clade II in the country, all Centers for Health Development (CHDs) are directed to remain vigilant and implement proactive measures for prevention, early detection, and case management. These actions should be in alignment with the Department Memorandum (DM) No. 2024-0306 entitled “*Updated Interim Guidelines on the Prevention, Detection, and Management of Mpox*” and other related issuances. The Ministry of Health - Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) is likewise encouraged to adopt this Circular subject to the provisions of Republic Act. no. 11054 (Bangsamoro Organic Act) and the subsequent laws and issuances issued by the Bangsamoro government.

To support these efforts and ensure consistent implementation across all levels, the table below provides a summary of existing relevant department memoranda and are hereby reiterated in the context of Mpox prevention, detection, and management efforts.

Issuance	Description
<i>Guidelines for the General Public and Specific Settings and Populations</i>	
<i>DM 2024-0306</i> <i>Updated Interim Guidelines on the Prevention, Detection, and Management of Mpox</i>	Comprehensive guidelines on the prevention, detection, isolation, treatment, and reintegration of mpox cases for use by healthcare workers across all levels of care. This issuance outlines the standard minimum precautions for mpox, protocols at points of entry, case assessment and reporting procedures, isolation and management of close contacts and cases, and treatment protocols. The document also emphasizes risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) strategies to support public awareness and response efforts.
<i>DM 2024-0312</i> <i>Interim Guidelines for Mpox Monitoring, Isolation, and Infection Prevention and Control in Home Settings</i>	Practical guidance for individuals undergoing home isolation due to Mpox, as well as their household members and caregivers. It covers protocols for home-based monitoring of symptoms, isolation procedures, and hygiene and disinfection practices within the household. The guidelines also include recommendations for the safe reintegration of recovered individuals into the community.
<i>DM 2024-0320</i> <i>Interim Guidelines for Mpox Prevention and Response in Workplaces and Other High Risk Commercial Establishments</i>	Interim guide on for the prevention, early detection, and management of Mpox in both public and private workplaces. It employs the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Hierarchy of Controls to prioritize effective infection control strategies. Special attention is given to high-risk occupations and establishments where close physical contact is common, such as massage parlors, spas, gyms, barbershops, and salons.
<i>DM 2024-0416</i> <i>Interim Guidelines for the Integration of Mpox to HIV Prevention, Detection, and Management</i>	Provides guidance for the integration of Mpox-related services within HIV programs. It targets healthcare workers, HIV health service providers, health facilities, LGU's, and other community based organizations, particularly those serving key populations such as People Living with HIV (PLHIV). The guidelines emphasize the importance of accurate risk communication, culturally sensitive community engagement, and the reduction of stigma and discrimination.
<i>DC 2024-0511</i> <i>Advisory on the Detection, Reporting, and Management of Mpox Case among Foreign Nationals</i>	Provides direction to healthcare providers, port health authorities, and local government units on the appropriate procedures for identifying, reporting, and managing Mpox cases among foreign nationals. The guidance includes protocols for screening at points of entry, secure transportation of suspect cases to appropriate health facilities, mandatory case reporting at both border and community levels, and non-discriminatory, migrant-sensitive management of foreign patients.

Issuance	Description
<i>Governance and Policy Framework</i>	
DC 2024-0399 <i>Dissemination of the 2024 Philippine Mpox National Action Plan</i>	Adopts and disseminates the 2024 Philippine Mpox National Action Plan as the primary strategic and operational framework for guiding Mpox prevention, detection, and response efforts. This serves as an essential planning document for all stakeholders, supporting the coordinated implementation of national and local public health measures.
<i>Laboratory and Surveillance</i>	
RITM Updated Guidelines on the Specimen Collection and Submission of Specimen for Mpox	Outlines the procedures for specimen collection and submission for Mpox testing. The document provides detailed instructions on coordination protocols, documentary requirements, biosafety precautions, types of specimens to be collected, proper patient preparation, and the safe handling and transport of specimens to designated laboratories.
DM 2024-0346 <i>Submission of the Data Requirements Through the DOH Data Collect Bed Tracker and Mpox City/Municipality Baseline</i>	Facilitates the timely submission of critical datasets via the DOH Data Collect platform, which is essential for assessing the current capacity of the health sector and for enabling evidence-based planning, policy formulation, and the deployment of targeted Mpox response strategies.
DM 2024-0517 <i>Adoption of the Mpox Case Investigation Form Version 2</i>	Updates the Mpox Case Investigation Form mandated for use by DM 2024-0339. The updated form addresses the evolving needs of regional and local stakeholders, incorporating improvements that facilitate more comprehensive case investigations and more efficient contact tracing for Mpox cases.
DM 2025-0058 <i>Designation and Activation of Select DOH Hospital Laboratories as Interim Referral Laboratories of Mpox Cases</i>	Formally designates select DOH Hospital Laboratories and Subnational Laboratories as referral laboratories for Mpox testing within their respective catchment areas. The initiative aims to enhance the country's diagnostic capacity by improving accessibility to timely testing, enabling faster confirmation of cases, and supporting rapid outbreak response at the regional level.
<i>Case Management</i>	
DM 2024-0310 <i>Reiteration on the Use of the Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients</i>	This Department Memorandum reiterates to all partner hospitals and healthcare facilities the eligibility of Mpox-related services under the MAIFIP Program. Facilities may utilize available MAIFIP funds for the testing, diagnosis, and management of suspected or confirmed Mpox cases, in accordance with DOH Administrative Order No. 2024-0006,

Issuance	Description
<i>(MAIFIP) Program for Mpox Testing and Management</i>	titled “ <i>Revised Guidelines on the Implementation of the Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patient Program</i> ,” issued on April 16, 2024.
DM 2024-0349 <i>Designation of DOH Hospitals as Referral Hospitals for Mpox Cases</i>	Designates select DOH Hospitals with functional Specialty Centers for Dermatology, and Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine as Mpox Referral Hospitals. The memorandum outlines the specific responsibilities of these referral hospitals, as well as those of the Centers for Health Development (CHDs) and the Ministry of Health - BARMM, to support the country’s diagnostic, treatment, and containment capabilities for Mpox.
DM 2024-0458 <i>Guidelines on the Management and Administration of Tecovirimat to Patients with Mpox</i>	Following the limited availability of Tecovirimat through an ASEAN-led pooled procurement initiative, and the issuance of a Compassionate Special Permit by the Philippine Food and Drug Administration in October 2024, this DM provides comprehensive clinical guidance for authorized physicians and hospitals. It outlines recommended populations for treatment, dosing, special warning and precautions, compliance monitoring procedures, and protocols for reporting adverse drug reactions. It also outlines process for access to the drug and monitoring of compliance.
<i>Handling and Disposal of Remains</i>	
DC 2024-0333 <i>Updated List of Dangerous Communicable Diseases Pursuant to the Requirements of AO No. 2021-0056-A entitled "Amendment to the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Code on Sanitation...(PD 856) Chapter XXI Disposal of Dead Persons"</i>	This Department Circular updates the official list of diseases categorized as Dangerous Communicable Diseases under Categories I and II, as outlined in Annex 7, Section A.7.2 of Administrative Order No. 2021-0056. Mpox is now formally included as a Category I disease, signifying its high risk, necessitating specialized protocols for the handling of deceased individuals.
DM 2024-0311 <i>Interim Guidelines on the Handling and Disposal of Human Remains of Suspect, Probable, and Confirmed Mpox Cases</i>	This issuance provides guidance to all public and private health facilities, including hospitals, mortuaries, funeral establishments, and other relevant institutions, on the safe and dignified handling and disposal of human remains of individuals classified as suspect, probable, or confirmed Mpox cases. The guidelines are aligned with the provisions of <i>Presidential Decree No. 856</i> (Code of Sanitation of the Philippines) and <i>Republic Act No. 9271</i> (Quarantine Act), ensuring infection prevention and the protection of public

Issuance	Description
	health during mortuary and burial procedures.

All policies and issuances relative to mpox may be viewed via: <https://bit.ly/MpoxIssuedPH>. Likewise, all related communication materials and references are accessible via: <https://bit.ly/RCCEMpoxPH>.

For strict implementation and widest dissemination to all concerned.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:



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