

OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19**AGHAM AT KAALAMAN PARA SA BAYAN!****OFFICERS**

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Addressed to: National Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging & Infectious Diseases (IATF), Department of Health

AVOIDING ECONOMIC HARM FROM THE LOCKDOWN

The implementation of age-based easing of lockdown measures to prevent further economic harm is based on the following facts:

- The risk for serious disease and death in COVID-19 cases among persons in the United States increases with age.
- Data from China and the United States, suggest that a majority (>80%) of COVID-19 deaths have occurred among adults aged ≥ 60 -65 years and among persons with serious underlying health conditions, with the highest percentage of severe outcomes among persons aged ≥ 85 years (USA). Fatality in the age group of ≥ 85 years was highest, ranging from 10% to 27%. This was followed by 3% to 11% among persons aged 65–84 years, and 1% to 3% among persons aged 55-64 years.
- Interestingly, fatality was <1% among persons aged 20–54 years, and no fatalities among persons aged ≤ 19 years.
- Persons aged ≤ 19 years have milder COVID-19 illness, with less than 1% of hospitalizations in this age group (USA).
- The age group of 20–44 years comprised 20% of hospitalizations, and as many as 4% needed intensive care.
- Therefore, there are distinct age groups of people who are more resistant to COVID-19 infection and who are able to present with milder infections with no or milder symptoms. These are apparently people in the age group below 45 years old- up to 50 years old. The younger age groups being more resistant. Obviously good state of health is important.

Note:

- a. While the trends on COVID-19 case and fatality distributions are becoming more certain as more cases accumulate, these data are to be considered preliminary and based solely on most recent USA data. The distribution of fatalities and severe cases by age group may still change as we gain information from other countries. Obtaining specific data from the Philippines is important.
- b. While the rate of fatality in persons aged 20-44 years old is low, people in this age group may still acquire serious disease. Therefore, age-based easing of lockdown measures should be supported by approaches directed at enhancing population protection, immunity and overall wellness, and reliance on prompt case detection and medical interventions that are proven to modulate COVID-19 morbidities and reduce overall fatality rates. These

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young workers should be maximally shielded from COVID-19 infection or disease.

References:

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