



## **NATIONAL DENGUE EPIDEMIC DECLARATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Health holds the overall technical authority on health as it is the national health policy-maker and regulatory institution;

**WHEREAS**, from January 1 to July 20, 2019, the total number of dengue cases recorded has reached 146,062, which is 98% higher compared to the 73,818 cases recorded in the same period last year, with 14 out of the 17 regions registering higher dengue cases compared to the same period in 2018;

**WHEREAS**, based on the DOH Dengue Surveillance Report, Region VI (Western Visayas) had the most number of cases at 23,330, followed by Region IV-A (CALABARZON) with 16,515, Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula) with 12,317, Region X (Northern Mindanao) with 11,455, and Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN) with 11,083 cases.

**WHEREAS**, as of July 20, 2019, based on the DOH Weekly Surveillance Report for Morbidity Week No. 29, the epidemic threshold has been exceeded in the following seven (7) regions — Region IV-A (CALABARZON), Region IV-B (MIMAROPA), Region V (Bicol), Region VI (Western Visayas), Region VIII (Eastern Visayas), Region IX (Zamboanga), and Region X (Northern Mindanao);

**WHEREAS**, the following three (3) regions have exceeded the alert threshold — Region I (Ilocos), Region VII (Central Visayas), and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM);

**WHEREAS**, based on the same report an additional 10,502 cases have been recorded for Morbidity Week No. 29, which is 71% higher than the 6,128 cases recorded in the same period in 2018;

**WHEREAS**, the high number of cases recorded continues to increase based on surveillance reports;

**WHEREAS**, health facilities and local government units (LGUs) in affected areas have been coping with the increasing dengue cases, but there remains an urgent need to provide additional support to these facilities and LGUs to ensure proper dengue case management, and to prevent the further accumulation of cases;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, Secretary of Health, declare a **NATIONAL DENGUE EPIDEMIC** to ensure public safety and welfare amidst the increasing cases of dengue, and to ensure a whole-of-nation approach in addressing and halting the dengue epidemic.

The Department requests the Chair of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) to convene a full council meeting, and discuss a unified epidemic response from all NDRRMC members and other agencies/organizations, including interventions to prevent and control dengue.

All bureaus, units, offices, hospitals, and attached agencies of the Department of Health are directed to strictly adhere to and enforce emergency protocols and relevant DOH issuances — Administrative Order No. 2018-0021, Guidelines for the Nationwide Implementation of the Enhanced 4S-Strategy against Dengue, Chikungunya; Department Memorandum No. 2019-0144, Advisory on Dengue Preparedness and Outbreak Response; Department Personnel Order No. 2019-1001, Creation of Task Force for Prevention, Control and Response to Dengue Outbreak; Department Memorandum No. 2019-0307, Conduct of *Sabayang 4-O'clock Habit para Deng-Get Out Activities*; Guidelines in the Management of Hospital Surge Capacity during Dengue Epidemic; Guidelines on Dengue Case Management and Service Provision; and Monitoring Checklists for LGUs, schools, day care centers, hospitals, Centers for Health Development and Rural Health Units — as well as subsequent directives or orders issued in connection with this declaration.

All DOH Units are hereby authorized and directed to coordinate with LGUs and local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council at all levels, ensure localized interventions in priority areas and hotspots, secure full community participation through *Aksyon Barangay Kontra Dengue*/Dengue Brigades, and ensure implementation of directives contained herein.

All hospitals shall establish dengue fastlanes and manage surge capacity based on guidelines.

Furthermore, all DOH units shall maintain heightened and sustained disease and vector surveillance, and intensified interventions, including observance of the cycle of space spraying. Mobilization of teams and logistics, and augmentation of laboratory logistics and human resource shall be immediately mobilized when warranted. Finally, priority areas/hotspots shall be identified through clustering of cases, and epidemic areas shall be immediately reported to the Central Office.

In coordination with LGUs, local DRRMCs, and other government agencies, all personnel of the Department must undertake a more vigorous disease-prevention campaign and reach out to vulnerable sectors of society, consistent with existing laws and regulations of this Department.

Use of all available resources of the Department, and approved leaves of DOH personnel, must be reviewed and realigned towards the foregoing goals, consistent with government procurement and accounting rules, and civil service rules.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Department of Health — Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

**DONE**, in the City of Manila, this 5th day of August in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.



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