CITY ORDINANCE NO. CO 85-2020
Series of 2020

AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, AND ALL ITS INSTRUMENTALITIES, AND PRIVATE BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS TO CONDUCT MANDATORY TESTING OF ITS EMPLOYEES WHO WILL BE RETURNING TO WORK.

Introduced by: HON. ALDE F. PAGULAYAN

Sponsored by:


WHEREAS, it is the avowed policy of the City to protect its citizens from the effects of any public health threat that may possibly disadvantage its constituencies:

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte declared a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines under Proclamation No. 922 to address the Covid-19 threat, and subsequently a state of nationwide calamity under Proclamation No. 929, series of 2020;

WHEREAS, as of May 17, 2020, the Philippines has a total of 12,513 confirmed COVID-19 cases, of which there are 824 deaths;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, local government units shall exercise such other powers and discharge such other functions and responsibilities as necessary, appropriate, or incidental to efficient and effective provisions of the basic services and facilities, including but not limited to, health services which include, among others, communicable disease prevention, control and management;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the general welfare clause under Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, local
government units are empowered to enact legislation that will promote general welfare;

WHEREAS, Republic Act (RA) No. 11469 (Bayanihan to Heal as One Act) was enacted placing the country in a state of National Emergency due to the threat of COVID-19. Under such act, local government units (LGUs) are mandated to act within the letter and spirit of all rules, regulations, and directives issued by the National Government, and for them to fully cooperate in implementing policies to address COVID-19;

WHEREAS, with the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the country, there is also a subsequent increase in the demand for RT-PCR testing all over the country which prompted the national government to issue guidelines on risk-based testing for COVID-19, and so the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued Memorandum Circular No. 2020-073, GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE EXPANDED TESTING PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19, dated 13 April 2020, in response to the issuance of the Department of Health (DOH) Memorandum No. 2020-0151 dated 31 March 2020, which was reiterated by the DOH under DC No. 2020-0174, 9 April 2020, and further reiterated by DOH under MC No. 2020-0180, dated 16 April 2020, REVISED INTERIM GUIDELINES ON EXPANDED TESTING FOR COVID-19;

NOW, THEREFORE:
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF BACOOR, CAVITE IN REGULAR ONLINE SESSION ASSEMBLED, THAT:

Section 1. All employees of the Local Government Unit and all its instrumentalities, whether permanent, casual, co-terminus, job order, and all employees of private business establishments shall be subjected to Bacoor City Expanded Mass Testing for COVID-19 Program in accordance with the DOH DM 2020-0180, Revised Interim Guidelines on Expanded Mass Testing for COVID-19 and DILG MC 2020-073. A Medical Clearance from the City Health Office (CHO) shall be a requirement before returning back to work.

Section 2. Expenses incurred in testing public sector workers in the City shall be charged against the current budget of the City. Meanwhile, private establishments shall bear the costs of testing their employees, in accordance with the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, approved by the

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Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF).

Section 3. In no instance shall the cost of the testing be charged to the employees, whether public or private.

Section 4. COVID-19 EXPANDED TESTING is defined as testing all individuals who are at-risk of contracting COVID-19 infection, prioritizing all (1) suspect cases, (2) all individuals with relevant history of travel or exposure (or contact), whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, and (3) health care workers, frontliners and all other public employees with possible exposure whether symptomatic or asymptomatic. The list of sub-groups or at-risk individuals arranged in order of greatest to lowest need for testing is identified by the DOH in DOH DM No. 2020-0180.

Section 5. The Local Government through its Human Resource Management and Development Department and the City Health Office shall generate a list of individuals who shall be included in the Expanded Mass Testing Program, and proper reporting and coordination of results to the regional epidemiological surveillance unit (RESU) and the DOH shall be done by the CHO in accordance with the protocols established by DOH.

Section 6. Private business establishments shall comply with the provisions of applicable IATF Resolution and National Task Force issuance, and the DOH DM No. 2020-0220 dated 11 May 2020, INTERIM GUIDELINES ON RETURN TO WORK, which requires, among others that employers shall adopt a business continuity plan to prevent the spread of COVID-19, with proper screening by licensees medical practitioner of their employees who will be ordered to return to work. Cost of COVID-19 testing conducted in accordance with the provisions of DOH DM 0220 if not covered by PhilHealth shall be borne by employers. Aside from submission and reporting to DOH, the employers shall submit relevant information and testing results to the City Health Office (CHO), copy furnished the Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO), for proper monitoring and guidance.

Section 7. In case of suspected COVID-19 Community-based Transmission, as may be determined by the City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (CESU) or by the City Task Force COVID-19, the Expanded Mass testing may be performed in such area or locality within the City such as at a household, purok and barangay-level, depending on availability of funds and resources, using proper sampling methodology and testing technology in
collaboration with the RESU and the Epidemiology Bureau. The results of such testing shall be reported and coordinated with the DOH by the CHO according to established protocols.

Section 8. Failure to comply with the above mentioned responsibilities may be considered a violation of Republic Act No. 11332, Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act, which penalizes NON-COOPERATION of persons and entities that should REPORT and/or RESPOND to notifiable diseases or health events of public concern (Section 9, [D]), the penalty of which is fine of not less than Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) but not more than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than one (1) month but not more than six (6) months, or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the proper court.

The Professional Regulation Commission shall have the authority to suspend or revoke the license to practice of any medical professional for any violation of this Act.

The Civil Service Commission shall have the authority to suspend or revoke the civil service eligibility of a public servant who is in violation of this Act.

If the offense is committed by a public or private health facility, institution, agency, corporation, school, or other juridical entity duly organized in accordance with law, the chief executive officer, president, general manager, or such other officer in charge shall be held liable. In addition, the business permit and license to operate of the concerned facility, institution, agency, corporation, school, or legal entity shall be cancelled.

Section 9. Any employee of any department, office or unit of the City Government who fails to subject himself or herself to the expanded mass testing as required by the CHO shall be subjected to disciplinary measures. Administrative penalties may be applied. The head of the unit shall be responsible to ensure that all its employees are properly examined/assessed and tested by the CHO before returning back to work.

Section 10. Any private business establishment which fails to subject its employees to physical examination and testing as required by law, rules and regulations shall be subject to revocation of business license and appropriate fines and penalties.
Section 11. The City Mayor may, from time to time, issue executive order, memorandum or public advisory, rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this ordinance.

Section 12. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall be immediately implemented upon its approval and publication in the official websites of the Bacoor City government (www.bacoor.gov.ph) and of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Bacoor (www.bacoorcitcysp.com).

APPROVED on the 25th day of May 2020 by a unanimous vote of all the members of the 4th Sangguniang Panlungsod of the City of Bacoor, Cavite during the 9th regular session conducted online held in the City of Bacoor, Cavite with the use of a videoconferencing application approved by a majority of its members.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance is true and correct and that it was duly passed in accordance with law.

Certified by:

HON. CATHERINE SARINO-EVARISTO
City Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

Attested by:

ATTY. KHALID A. ATEGA JR.
Sangguniang Panlungsod Secretary

Approved by:

HON. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
City Mayor

Date of Approval: ________________

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