

GUIDANCE FOR REOPENING MUSEUMS

I. RATIONALE

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine (the "IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines") provides that Category IV industries, which include Tourist Attraction, shall be allowed to operate under a Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) at a maximum of fifty percent (50%) operational capacity.

Accordingly, the Department of Tourism has issued Administrative Order No. 2020-009 on the GUIDELINES ON THE OPERATIONS OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS SUCH AS PARKS, NATURAL SITES, HISTORICAL LANDMARKS, AND MUSEUMS UNDER A MODIFIED GENERAL COMMUNITY QUARANTINE.

The Association of Greater Manila Area Museums Association (AGMAM), a member of the Executive Council of the National Committee on Museums, recommended Guidelines on Reopening Measures in NCR to the National Committee on Museums (NCOM) to help ensure the safe and healthy operation for museums in Manila during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NCOM agreed to adopt the recommendation of AGMAM on March 25, 2021 through NCOM Resolution No. 2021-01 as the *Guidance for Reopening Museums* to museum administrators and managers. This guidance is based on the best information available at the time of publication and is not intended to supersede the minimum public health standards and capacity limitations set by the IATF as well as the guidance from public health officials, medical experts, and local and national governments.

II. Definition of Terms:

Modified General Community Quarantine or MGCQ refers to transition phase between GCQ and the NEW Normal, when the following temporary measures are relaxed and become less necessary: limiting movement and transportation, the regulation of operating industries, and the presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).

New Normal refers to the emerging behaviors, situations, and minimum public health standards that will be institutionalized in common or routine practices and remain even after the pandemic while the disease is not totally eradicated through means such as widespread immunization (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).

Minimum Public Health Standards refers to guidelines set by the Department of Health (DOH), as well as sector-relevant guidelines to aid all sectors implementing non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI), which refer to public health measures that do not involve vaccines, medications, or other pharmaceutical interventions, which individuals and communities can carry out in order to reduce transmission rates, contact rates, and the duration of infectious of individuals in the population to mitigate COVID-19 (*IATF-EID Omnibus Guidelines*).

All items from hereon are adopted from the said AGMAM recommendation on the Guidelines for Reopening Measures of Museums.

III. Health and Safety

- Mandatory face masks and face shields for all workers and visitors
- Mandatory medical check for all workers prior to museum reopening and regular operations
- Mandatory installation of disinfectants in the entrances, exits, workstations, restrooms, and galleries, etc.
- Mandatory temperature check for all visitors and staff prior to building entry.
- Require visitor's registration and contact tracing measures at the main entrance of the building or by means of a digital registration system.
- Limit capacity for each museum space and monitor visitor entries and exits at all times.
- Ensure social distancing of 6 feet or more between individuals.
- Install preventive physical barriers for ticket counters, workstations, dining room, restrooms and other communal areas.
- Install clearly visible signages to areas for visitors and staff for social distancing and other reminders on COVID preventive measures.
- Install directional pathways to manage visitor traffic flow.
- Encourage the use of digital and downloadable source of museum guide materials.

IV. Staffing and Operations

- Museums are encouraged to offer online ticket sales and contactless payment methods if possible.
 - Encourage visitor age limits within the local and national health and safety compliance.
 - Consider using timed entry tickets and time limits for visits to ensure compliance with capacity limits.
 - Encourage tour operators to limit group size in walking tours with time limits for visits.
- Limit service providers inside the building including shipping and deliveries with designated areas.
- Adjust workplace hours and shifts to minimize contact across workers and reduce congestion at entry points and other museum areas.
 - Consider shifting of work hours for staff and encourage work from home as an alternative work scheme.
 - Facilities should maintain operating hours that allow for on-going off-hour sanitation and cleaning.
 - Interactive exhibits and or areas should be closed temporarily or be configured with six feet of distancing with cleared marks and signages.
 - Place hand hygiene stations accessible to visitors and staff.
 - On-site amenities and services (café, restaurants, souvenir shops, etc.) may only open and operate when authorized under the LGU, NGU and other COVID-19 health agencies and must adhere to all sector-specific safety protocols.
 - Workers shall not report for work or complete a shift if feeling ill.
 - Workers vulnerable to COVID-19 due to age or underlying conditions are encouraged to stay and work from home.
 - All staff are encouraged to self-identify symptoms or any close contact to a known or suspected COVID-19 case to the employer.
 - Staff who test positive for COVID-19 are encouraged to disclose to the workplace employer for the purpose of cleaning, disinfecting, and contact tracing.
 - Employer shall notify the local COVID-19 health agency if the museum staff tested positive for the virus and assist in contact tracing

V. Hygiene, Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

- Ensure access to handwashing facilities on site, including soap and running water.
- Avoid sharing equipment and supplies between workers.
- Disinfect shared equipment before use by another staff.
- Post visible signage throughout the building to remind workers of hygiene and safety protocols.
- Clean commonly touched surfaces frequently and in accordance with the COVID-19 health agencies (doorknobs, toilet seats, sinks, etc.).
- Conduct frequent cleaning and disinfection of site (minimum of daily and more frequently if feasible).
- Open windows and doors to increase airflow when possible.
- Install exhaust and ventilation systems, if feasible, to areas with environmental control requirements.
- All concerns or violations in each museum's guidelines may be reported to the Museum administration.

Museums are encouraged to seek legal and expert advice on specific circumstances in case of serious violations of local and national protocols and guidelines. They are advised to contact or inform the relevant government authorities.