

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. <u>BPE 04-006</u>, SERIES OF 2021

AN ORDER MODIFYING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS IN THE PROVINCE OF EASTERN SAMAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL IATF-MEID RULES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, Article II, Secton 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

WHEREAS, under the General Welfare clause of the Local Government Code, Local Government Units (LGUs) are charged with the promotion of health and safety of its constituents;

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2021, the National Inter-Agency Task Force-(IATF-MEID) issued Resolution No. 101, providing for uniform travel protocols for land, air, and sea for all Local Government Units;

WHEREAS, the National IATF issued Resolution No. 107-A, classified Eastern Samar as a low risk area under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) until April 30, 2021;

WHERAS, there has been a surge in the number of COVID-19 cases in the country, particularly in the National Capital Region and its surrounding areas;

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Guidelines for the implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines has been amended on April 3, 2021;

WHEREAS, the continued implementation of proactive measures is necessary to ensure the utmost protection of the health and life of Estehanons;

NOW THEREFORE, I, BEN P. EVARDONE, Governor of the Province of Eastern Samar, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the following:

Section 1. Strict enforcement of minimum public health standards – Minimum public health standards, which include physical distancing, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and wearing of face masks and face shields, among others, shall be strictly implemented across all settings. All component LGUs are hereby directed to ensure that public health measures are complied with in their respective jurisdictions through the institutionalization of BIDA Bastoneros at all levels.

Section 2. Restriction on the movement of minors, senior citizens and those with comorbidities – Any person below fifteen (15) years old, those who are over sixty-five (65) years of age, those with immunodeficiency, comorbidity, or other

health risks, and pregnant women shall be required to remain in their residences at all times; *Except* for the following purposes:

- a. For obtaining essential goods and services;
- b. For work in permitted industries or offices; and
- c. For engaging in outdoor, non-contact sports and other forms of exercise.

Section 3. Prohibited industries – The following establishments, persons, or activities shall not be permitted to operate, work, or be undertaken during MGCQ:

- a. Karaoke bars, clubs, concert halls, and theaters;
- b. Fairs/Peryas, kid amusement industries such as playgrounds, playroom and kiddie rides; and
- c. Cockfighting and operation of cockpits, except for the sole purpose of conducting e-sabong licensed and regulated by PAGCOR.

Section 4. Mass gatherings – Gatherings shall be allowed up to 50% of the seating or venue capacity, *Provided* that participants shall strictly observe minimum public health standards, and the establishments or venues where the gatherings will take place shall strictly comply with ventilation standards as provided for under relevant issuances of the Department of Labor and Employment.

Section 5. Border control – All persons entering the province, including drivers of cargo vehicles and Authorized Persons Outside Residence (APORs), shall comply with the following minimum requirements upon arrival at the border checkpoint:

- a. A duly accomplished health declaration form;
- b. Symptom screening and temperature check; and
- c. A secured QR- Code from the National S-pass system.

Any person who is found to be exhibiting symptoms upon arrival at the province shall be required to undergo quarantine and RT-PCR/antigen test as provided in the following section.

Section 6. Regulation for incoming travelers, tourists, returning residents and returning overseas Filipinos – All incoming travelers, tourists, returning residents and overseas Filipinos, coming from ECQ and MECQ areas shall present a negative RT-PCR test upon arrival at the provincial border, provided that the RT-PCR Test was conducted by a DOH accredited testing laboratory and taken within 72 hours prior to their entry. Those who present a negative test result and are asymptomatic are exempt from quarantine but shall be subjected to daily symptom monitoring through the BHERT for a period of seven (7) days from the date of arrival.

Incoming travelers with no prior RT-PCR results shall be directed to undergo home quarantine for a period of five (5) days. On the sixth (6th) day, they shall undergo either RT-PCR or antigen test, as determined by their LGU, and be discharged after a negative result. Otherwise, they shall complete the 14-day period.

Any person who shall exhibit symptoms at any time during their home quarantine shall be transported directly to the LGU Quarantine Facility and will be swabbed for RT-PCR at the soonest possible time. He/she shall still be subjected to daily symptommonitoring by their BHERT for a period of fourteen (14) days after arrival.

In line with the national directive on unhampered movement of goods and services, the following shall not be required to undergo such tests:

- 1. Cargo trucks and delivery vehicles of food and other essentials *provided* that their stay in the province does not exceed twenty-four (24) hours, *provided further* that they shall report to their LGU and be subjected to daily symptommonitoring by their BHERT; and
- 2. APORs who are in official business as supported by a Travel Order or Mission Order.

Section 7: Active surveillance of Influenza – like Illness (ILI) – In accordance with DOH Administrative Order 2020-0013, all LGUs are required to monitor Influenza-like illness at the barangays through their BHERTs (by active surveillance) and submit a report on ILI cases as prescribed to the Provincial Health Office at least weekly.

Section 8: **Re-activation of COVID-19 operation centers –** All component LGUs shall reactivate their respective COVID-19 operation centers. These centers shall operate twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week and must closely coordinate with the border staff to facilitate the transfer and monitoring of incoming travellers.

Section 9. Separability – In any event that any provision of this Order or any part hereof is declared invalid, contrary to law, or unconstitutional, the provisions not thereby affected shall remain in force and effect.

Section 10. Repeal – All other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 11. Effectivity – This Order shall take effect immediately. Furnish copies of this Executive Order to all BHERTS, Municipal Health Offices, PNP, AFP, and all other stakeholders for their guidance.

SO ORDERED.

DONE this 12th day of April 2021 in Borongan City, Eastern Samar.

