



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION X - NORTHERN MINDANAO
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL

Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

May 29, 2024

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 331, s. **2024**

COVID FLiRT VARIANT

To: Public Schools District Supervisors/Districts In-charge
Principals/School Heads
Teachers
District Nurses, and Staff
All Others Concerned
This Division

1. The Bureau alerts all concerned agencies of a new COVID-19 variant, the FLiRT Family and Subvariants. The acronym "FLiRT" stems from the technical names for the variant's spike protein mutation or the specific amino changes called "FLips" This term is now being used to describe a whole family of different variants – including KP.2, JN.1.7, and any other variants starting with KP or JN. Each amino acid has its own letter abbreviation in this case FLiRT is F456L + R346T; or Phenylalanine (F) to Leucine (L) at position 456 and Arginine (r) to Threonine at position 346 – "FLiRT".
2. Despite its playful name, the new set of COVID-19 variants are nothing to joke about. It is important to take precautions against COVID-19 and keep up to date with vaccination to prevent severe disease and complications.
3. The Department of Health mandates vigilance and awareness for all, especially those who are planning to travel abroad. Practice basic health measures such as frequent handwashing, coughing etiquette, and vigilance in crowded situations and getting in contact with people with flu like symptoms. Submit for screenings at Points of Entry such as Sea Ports and International Airports if necessary.
4. Based on reports, FLiRT Variants have been detected in Singapore, Thailand, India, China, HongKong, Nepal, The United States and 14 countries in Europe, including the United Kingdom.
5. The Bureau reminds that all travelers should complete the health questionnaire available on the e-travel application website.



Address: Del Pilar corner Velez Street, Brgy. 29, Cagayan de Oro City 9000
Telephone Nos.: (088) 881-3094 | Text: 0917-8992245 (Globe)
Website: www.deped.misor.net
Email: misamis.oriental@deped.gov.ph



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6. This office reminds everyone to be careful with false and misleading information from unverified sources.
7. For those who develop signs and symptoms of COVID-19, Home Isolation is advised.
8. Attached herein is a copy of the Bureau Memorandum No. 2024-48
9. For guidance and compliance.

EDILBERTO L. OPLENARIA, EdD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

For the Schools Division Superintendent

JANICE LOURDES S. RESURRECCION
Administrative Officer V
Officer In-charge
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

ELO/MMA/sgod/mma - emd



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Republic of the Philippines
Bureau of Quarantine
Department of Health



BUREAU MEMORANDUM NO. 2024- 48

TO: ALL BUREAU OF QUARANTINE STATIONS AND OTHER CONCERNED AGENCIES

FROM: FERDINAND S. SALCEDO, MD, MPH, CESO IV

DATE: 24 MAY 2024

SUBJECT: HEIGHTENED ALERT FOR COVID FLiRT VARIANT

Mandate

The Bureau of Quarantine (BoQ) under the Department of Health (DOH), with the category of a first-class line bureau, shall have a nationwide scope of function and international commitment in accord with the International Health Regulations (IHR) of the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Bureau is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations (apprehension, detention or surveillance) as necessary to prevent the introduction, transmission or spread of "public health emergencies of international concern" from foreign countries into the Philippines.

Jurisdiction and Functions of the Bureau

The examination at port of entry and exit in the Philippines of incoming and outgoing vessels and aircraft.

The necessary surveillance over their sanitary conditions, as well as over their cargoes, passengers, crews, and all personal effects, and

The issuance of quarantine certificates, bills of health, or other equivalent documents shall be vested in and be conducted by the Bureau.

This Bureau shall have authority over incoming and outgoing vessels both domestic and foreign, including those of the army and navy, their wharfrage and anchorages, and over aircraft and airports, insofar as it is necessary for the proper enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

We are facing a new COVID-19 strain that has the KP.1 and KP.2 variations, which are part of a newly discovered subvariants identified as "FLiRT," a novel virus that is spreading globally. They came from the JN.1 subvariant, which first became known in late 2023 and was responsible for this year's earlier infection increase.

In light of this, all stations have been directed to conduct thorough screening at Points of Entry for arriving visitors originating from countries where COVID FLiRT incidents have been detected. The general public should take basic health measures such as frequent hand washing, coughing etiquette, avoiding crowded situations and getting in contact with people with flu like symptoms.

All travelers must be reminded to complete the health questionnaire available on the e-travel application.

For those who develop Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19, Home Isolation is advised. For any concern, please contact DOH at (02) 8651-7800 or 894-COVID.