



Republic of the Philippines
Bureau of Quarantine
Department of Health



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR: No. 2022- 11

TO: All BOQ Stations
All Airline Operators
All Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW)
All Returning Overseas Filipinos (ROF)
All concerned Government Agencies
Regional Task Forces of the NTF COVID-19

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

SUBJECT: SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR UNACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINORS

DATE: July 17, 2022

Background and Rationale

During pandemic, non-essential travel is highly discouraged but with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in the country, we have encountered cases of arriving unaccompanied foreign minors in the airport.

In lieu of this and with the ambiguity of protocols in addressing the cases of arriving unaccompanied foreign minors in the airport, the Bureau hereby institutes an entry requirement protocol specifically for foreign unaccompanied minors to facilitate their safety and welfare.

Implementing Guidelines

A. Unaccompanied foreign minors aged 15-17 years

1. The following unaccompanied foreign minors aged 15-17 years shall *not* undergo quarantine and testing upon arrival:
 - a) Who have received primary series COVID-19 vaccine, and at least one (1) COVID-19 booster shot.
 - b) Who have received primary series COVID-19 vaccine and presenting a negative RT-PCR test taken within forty-eight (48) hours, or remotely supervised, or a laboratory-based rapid antigen negative test result administered and certified by a healthcare

professional in a healthcare facility, laboratory, clinic, pharmacy, or other similar establishment taken within twenty-four (24) hours, prior to the date and time of departure from the country of origin.

2. The following unaccompanied foreign minors aged 15-17 years shall undergo mandatory quarantine and testing:
 - a) Who have received primary series COVID-19 vaccine but with no COVID-19 booster shot or with no negative RT-PCR test taken within forty-eight (48) hours, or remotely supervised, or a laboratory-based rapid antigen negative test result administered and certified by a healthcare professional in a healthcare facility, laboratory, clinic, pharmacy, or other similar establishment taken within twenty-four (24) hours, prior to the date and time of departure from the country of origin.
 - b) Partially vaccinated and unvaccinated.

B. Unaccompanied foreign minors aged 5-14 years

1. The following unaccompanied foreign minors aged 5-14 years shall *not* undergo quarantine and testing upon arrival:
 - a) Who have received primary series COVID-19 vaccine and with prior coordination with endorsement letter of designated foreign embassy and airline.
 - b) Who have received primary series COVID-19 vaccine, and at least one (1) COVID-19 booster shot. Regardless to the status of coordination to designated foreign embassy and airline.
 - c) Who have received primary series COVID-19 vaccine and presenting a negative RT-PCR test taken within forty-eight (48) hours, or remotely supervised, or a laboratory-based rapid antigen negative test result administered and certified by a healthcare professional in a healthcare facility, laboratory, clinic, pharmacy, or other similar establishment taken within twenty-four (24) hours, prior to the date and time of departure from the country of origin. Regardless to the status of coordination to designated foreign embassy and airline.
2. The following unaccompanied foreign minors aged 5-14 years shall undergo quarantine and testing upon arrival:
 - a) Who have received primary series COVID-19 vaccine but without prior coordination and endorsement letter of designated foreign embassy and airlines; and no COVID-19 booster shot or with no negative RT-PCR test taken within forty-eight (48) hours, or remotely supervised, or a laboratory-based rapid antigen negative test result administered and certified by a healthcare professional in a healthcare facility, laboratory, clinic, pharmacy, or other similar establishment taken within twenty-four (24) hours, prior to the date and time of departure from the country of origin.
 - b) Partially vaccinated and unvaccinated.

- C. Unaccompanied foreign minors aged 4 years old and below shall have prior coordination with endorsement letter from designated foreign embassy and airline prior departure from port of origin. Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) endorsement letter can be an alternative acceptable requirement.

Failure to present the necessary documents upon arrival will require the said minors to undergo mandatory quarantine. In the absence of foreign embassy representation, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) shall stand-in for the needed coordination. The Airline shall designate a guardian who will accompany the minor during quarantine period.

- D. Airlines shall thoroughly check the required documents for unaccompanied foreign minors upon check-in, which includes the following:

15-17 years' old

- One Health Pass (OHP)
- Proof of vaccination
- Covid-19 booster shot or valid negative RT-PCR result.
- **Authorization Letter** from the parent/s or guardian indicating the name and address of the guardian in the Philippines who can accompany the minor in the quarantine facility and that the parent/s or guardian are allowing the minor to undergo mandatory quarantine and RT-PCR testing.

5-14 years' old

- One Health Pass (OHP)
- Proof of vaccination
- **Authorization Letter** from the parent/s or guardian indicating the name and address of the guardian in the Philippines who can accompany the minor in the quarantine facility and that the parent/s or guardian are allowing the minor to undergo mandatory quarantine and RT-PCR testing.
- Covid-19 booster shot or valid negative RT-PCR result; **or**
- **Endorsement letter** from designated foreign embassy and airline, or Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

4 years old and below

- One Health Pass (OHP)
- **Authorization Letter** from the parent/s or guardian indicating the name and address of the guardian in the Philippines who can accompany the minor in the quarantine facility and that the parent/s or guardian are allowing the minor to undergo mandatory quarantine and RT-PCR testing.
- **Endorsement letter** from designated foreign embassy and airline, or Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

E. In case of non-compliance of the above requirements, an accompanying adult/ guardian designated by parent/s or airline should accompany the child or children during their facility-based quarantine. The accompanying adult/guardian should present the following requirements:

- a. A negative RT-PCR test taken within 48 hours' or antigen test taken within 24 hours' prior to check in at the quarantine facility.
- b. A signed waiver indicating the awareness of the risk of exposure and willingness to accompany an unaccompanied minor/s to undergo complete mandatory facility-based quarantine.

For Strict Compliance.