



Philippine
Overseas
Employment
Administration

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Annual Deployment Ceiling of Newly Hired Health Care Workers

To ensure that the country has sufficient number of health care workers (HCWs) that can support the healthcare system and meet further contingencies during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Administration would continue to impose an annual deployment ceiling for newly hired HCWs particularly nurses, nursing aids and nursing assistants.

Pursuant to the *Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) Resolution No. 153 Series of 2021* and consistent with *POEA Governing Board Resolution No. 17, Series of 2020* and *POEA Advisory No. 169, Series of 2021*, the 2021 annual deployment ceiling of new hire healthcare workers (HCWs) for occupations identified by the Department of Labor and Employment as Mission Critical Skills (MCS) shall be further increased to seven thousand (7,000).

In the interest of facilitating the deployment of HCWs allowed for deployment, the Administration is also lifting the cut-off period for the perfected contracts that will be allowed for processing and issuance of an overseas employment certificate (OEC), however, preference will be given to those who signed their contracts in the previous year and were affected by the suspension.

Healthcare workers recruited under government-to-government labor agreement or those expressly covered under existing bilateral labor agreements, returning workers/*Balik-Manggagawa* and seafarers who were previously hired as doctors and nurses onboard and will be deployed by the same licensed manning agencies who were already exempted as per existing issuances shall remain exempt from the moratorium.

Those who are allowed to depart under this Advisory are expected to observe POEA Memorandum Circular No. 7, Series of 2020 and Governing Board Resolution No. 9, Series of 2020 particularly in compliance with minimum public health standards, quarantine protocols, social distancing measures, as well as departure and immigration procedures currently in place.

The annual deployment ceiling shall be applied consistent with non-deployment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in non-compliant countries under Republic Act 10022 and in accordance with existing entry restrictions of Filipino nationals in countries of destination.

With regard to other medical and allied healthcare workers, the temporary suspension on their deployment shall remain effective until the Administration lifts the moratorium upon due

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consultation with stakeholders, the Professional Regulation Commission and the Department of Health (DOH)

Any further increase on the said ceiling shall be subject of the recommendations of the Department of Labor Technical Working Group on Mission Critical Skills (DOLE-TWG MCS) and by the approval of IATF-EID.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.



BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

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