



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 11  
Series of 2022

To : ALL CONCERNED

Subject : Guidelines on the Resumption of Deployment of Government to Government -Hired Overseas Filipino Workers in Taiwan

Pursuant to the *Revised POEA Rules and Regulations Governing the Recruitment and Employment of Landbased Overseas Filipino Workers of 2016* (2016 Rules) and with the approval of the resumption of the deployment of migrant workers by the Taiwan Committee Epidemic Command Center (CECC) and Taiwan Ministry of Labor (MOL), the following guidelines are hereby issued to facilitate the deployment of workers under the Special Hiring Program for Taiwan.

I. Coverage

These guidelines shall cover all government to government -hired Landbased Overseas Filipino Workers bound for deployment to Taiwan, and the employers of government hired workers.

II. Responsibilities of the OFWs and Taiwan employers

1. The OFWs and their Taiwan employers shall ensure compliance with the deployment protocols and requirements set forth by this Memorandum Circular and by the Taiwan CECC and MOL;
2. During deployment, the OFW shall abide by, and strictly comply with, all the health and safety protocols and policies particularly those that are contained in the *Taiwan Foreign Human Resources Agency Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist*;
3. The GPB in coordination with the Direct Hiring Services Center (DHSC) and Taiwanese employers shall be responsible for the following:
  - a. Ensuring that all the necessary clearances and documentary requirements are updated and complete at the time of the deployment of the worker [i.e Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC), visa, verified/ authenticated employment contract, medical examination certificates, negative Covid-19 RT-PCR Results and certificates, Vaccination

certificates or international certificate of vaccination (yellow card), Covid-19 health insurance and other required pre-departure documentary [travel requirements];

- b. Monitoring the strict compliance of the OFW with the *Foreign Human Resources Agency Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist* prescribed by Taiwan and with the requirements set by this Memorandum Circular;
- c. Providing appropriate briefing to their workers on the requirements and protocols prior to their departure and upon arrival in Taiwan;
- d. Submitting to the POEA Government Placement Branch the seven (7) day *Daily Self- Health Monitoring Form (Annex A)*, Foreign Human Resources Agency Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist and other documentary requirements for assessment, verification and stamping;
- e. Appointing the POEA GPB Taiwan account officers that would coordinate and monitor the daily health conditions of their departing workers.;
- f. Direct the worker to have the appropriate free COVID 19 RT-PCR testing to its workers, as required by the employer and Taiwan, as well as meals, accommodation, and transportation from the point of hire to the intended destination subject to reimbursement by the employers, in order to ensure that the deployed workers are negative for COVID-19 prior to the deployment;
- g. Assisting the workers in securing a facility where the workers can have the required self-quarantine prior to their departure for Taiwan; and
- h. Coordinating with the appropriate government agencies for assistance the workers that will be tested positive for COVID -19 prior to their deployment.

### III. Requirements for Departing OFWs

#### a. COVID- 19 Testing Requirement

Departing workers are required to provide a certificate of COVID-19 RT-PCR negative result prior to their flights and must observe the period required by the Taiwan government as to the validity of the results.

(Note: In compliance with the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control announcement; as from 04 January 2022; every arriving passenger is required to provide a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test result that is based on specimen collection date within two days (48 hours) prior to the flight schedule time.)

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As required by the *Taiwan Foreign Human Resources Agency Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist*, workers who will be undergoing training must undergo and be tested negative for COVID-19 three days before commencing with their respective training.

The RT-PCR tests can be only administered by testing centers which are duly accredited by the Taiwan CECC based on the list provided by the Philippine authorities. (Attached as Annex A)

#### **b. Vaccination Requirements**

Departing workers must be fully inoculated against COVID-19 with recognized vaccines authorized for emergency use by Taiwan health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO), subject to any changes and further regulations that will be implemented by the receiving state.

Workers who are fully vaccinated locally shall secure an official digital vaccination certificate through the VaxCertPh portal, while those who were vaccinated overseas may present an International Certificate of Vaccination (ICV) duly issued by the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) or by the competent authority of the country where the vaccines were administered.

Before entering Taiwan, the workers must upload their vaccination certificate to the Ministry of Labor's Immigration Service Airport Care Service network for Overseas Migrant Workers (<https://fwas.wda.gov.tw/>) and have been check.

#### **c. Compliance with Taiwan Foreign Human Resources Agency Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist**

As a condition for the entry of migrant workers, the Taiwan CECC released a *Foreign Human Resources Agency Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist (Annex B)* which provides for requirements that must be strictly complied with by the workers and that will be strictly monitored by the PRAs.

The prevention plan and checklist will be assessed and verified by the Administration through the Government Placement Branch.

The following are the requirements set forth by the said prevention plan:

1. The number of people trained by the training agency at any one time should be reduced by 50%;

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2. The number of people residing in accommodation arranged by the training agency should be reduced by 50%. Individual rooms should house a maximum of six people;
3. Pre-approval from the ROC's Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) of the PCR testing agency to be visited by foreign workers;
4. Foreign workers should receive a PCR test three days prior to attending the training institute, and the test result must be negative;
5. Foreign workers are required to observe self-health management measures for the seven days before they board a flight to Taiwan;
6. Foreign workers should receive an additional PCR test within 72 hours prior to arriving in Taiwan, and the result must be negative; and

(Note: In compliance with the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control announcement; as from 04 January 2022; every arriving passenger is required to provide a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test result that is based on specimen collection date within two days (48 hours) prior to the flight schedule time.)

7. Provision of one person per room quarantine living space for foreign nationals after receiving a PCR test and before boarding a plane to Taiwan.

As per Taiwan authorities, Requirements No. 1, 2 and 4 are only applicable to deploying workers whose positions are required to undergo training in institutions.

For requirements No. 5, 6 and 7, the GPB shall ensure that their departing workers complied on the seven (7) day self-monitoring measures prior to the scheduled departure. To monitor compliance, the worker shall fill up the prescribed monitoring form (Annex B).

Once subjected to an RT-PCR test, workers are strictly required to undergo self-quarantine on one person per room rule to prevent further infection. The self-quarantine shall be observed from the time an RT-PCR test is administered until the scheduled departure. Once a negative RT-PCR test result is issued, the worker can depart for Taiwan within the required period.

The self-quarantine can be taken in a government accredited quarantine facility, hotel and other similar facilities.

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**IV. Assessment and Validation of Taiwan Foreign Human Resources Agency Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist**

On top of applicable provisions set out in the 2016 Revised POEA Rules, the worker shall initially submit to the Government Placement Branch in triplicate copies the Duly accomplished Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist.

The GPB shall assess and assure the compliance of the workers and employers with all of the requirements of the plan and checklist. It may further require the submission of other proof or/and documents should there be questions on the submitted requirements.

Upon assessment, the authorized GPB signatory shall sign and stamp the Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist.

The GPB Taiwan account officer must monitor the quarantine and the seven-day self-health management of the workers to be deployed.

The GPB shall ensure that the worker submit the following documents prior to the deployment of the worker:

- a. Duly accomplished Seven (7) day Self Health Monitoring Form;
- b. Negative RT-PCR test result; and
- c. Digital Vaccination Certificate or International Certificate of Vaccination (ICV).

Any misrepresentations or submission of falsified or spurious document/s on the part of the worker shall warrant the endorsement of the case for proper investigation.

**V. Post arrival protocols**

Upon arrival in Taiwan, workers must comply with the required quarantine and self-health management at an epidemic prevention hotel for quarantine facility. The employers shall ensure that the necessary arrangements for the workers' quarantine.

After the completion of the fourteen (14) day quarantine at an epidemic prevention hotel for quarantine facility the workers shall continue their quarantine for the next seven (7) days in a quarantine facility provided by the employer.

The employers shall ensure that the necessary arrangements are complete and the required insurance and other documents are fully secured prior to the departure of the workers.

While undergoing quarantine, workers would be provided with government subsidy while their employer are mandated to further compensate them for the



remaining seven (7) days, subject to any changes to be implemented by the Taiwan authorities.

**VI. Expenses on the additional requirements**

The workers shall not shoulder any expenses arising from the additional requirements prescribed by the Pandemic Prevention Plan and Checklist.

**For guidance of all concerned**



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