



ADVISORY 46 ON THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

The Philippine Consulate General informs all Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in **Southern California, Southern Nevada and State of Arizona** of the following CoViD-19 Developments:

CoViD-19 Variants in the United States

The Centers for Disease and Control (CDC) Prevention reports that, as of this writing, **UK B.1.1.7 and South Africa B.1.351 variants are now present countrywide**, including in the States of California, Nevada and Arizona with breakdown as follows:

State	UK B.1.1.7 cases	South Africa B.1.351 cases
California	204	2
Nevada	7	1
Arizona	6	0

A new variant, called CAL.20c or 20C/S:452R/B1429, originally detected in the State of California by the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, **is currently spreading and now accounts for 40-45% of the cases in the southern region of California.** CAL.20c is now present in 19 States in the U.S. and six foreign countries.

In view of the above developments, the **Filipino community is strongly advised to continue practicing the four basic protocols to curb community transmission:**

(1) wearing of a mask; (2) physical distancing; (3) frequent handwashing; and (4) staying at home unless for essential reasons.

The CDC also recommends “double masking,” which is described as (1) using a cloth mask that has multiple layers of fabric; and (2) wearing one disposable mask underneath a cloth mask.

Travel restrictions in the Philippines

Pursuant to recent travel advisories issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF), **the Balikbayan Privilege is reactivated**, allowing former Filipino nationals to travel to the country without a visa, provided that they will present an old PHL passport or PSA-issued birth certificate.

Foreign spouses and children, regardless of age, **NOT** travelling with former Filipino nationals **should apply for an appropriate visa.**

Latest CoViD-19-related Advisories are available at the:

Consulate General’s CoViD-19 portal:

<https://www.philippineconsulatela.org/advisory-on-the-2019-novel-corona-virus>

Philippine Bureau of Immigration’s website:

<https://immigration.gov.ph>

Travelers, needing specific guidance on said restrictions, may directly contact the Bureau of Immigration through its email accounts at immigPH@gmail.com ;

immigration.helpline.ph@gmail.com , or contact numbers:

+63-2-8465-2400; +63-2-8524-3769. END.