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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>UK B.1.1.7 cases</th>
<th>South Africa B.1.351 cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:
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.