

Republic of the Philippines PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION

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TO

ALL PHILHEALTH MEMBERS, ACCREDITED HEALTH CARE

PROVIDERS, PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICES, AND ALL

OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT

Coverage of OFWs for SARS-CoV-2 testing based on IATF

Guidelines and Modification of Priority Groups for SAR-CoV-2

Testing Packages based on DOH Guidelines (Revision 1)

RATIONALE I.

Entitlement of PhilHealth beneficiaries to the SARS-CoV-2 Testing packages is based on applicable guidelines set by the DOH and its subsequent issuances.

On January 14, 2022, the DOH issued Department Memorandum (DM) No. 2022-013 titled "Updated Guidelines on Quarantine, Isolation, and Testing for COVID-19 Response and Case Management for the Omicron Variant." This issuance repeals the DOH DM Nos. 2020-02581, 2020-0258-A² and 2020-0512³.

PhilHealth acknowledges the important role of our returning Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 2738, s. 2022 provides the continuing coverage of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) testing benefits package for returning OFWs, in accordance with Inter-Agency Task Force (LATF) Resolution No. 168, s. 2022.



This policy aims to update the guidelines to:

- A. Align with the updated guidelines and protocols on SARS-CoV-2 testing implemented by the DOH and LATF.
- B. Provide the benefits package for the SARS-CoV-2 testing in diagnosing COVID-19 infection as provided for in the current LATF and DOH Guidelines.

III. SCOPE

This PhilHealth Circular (PC) shall apply to PhilHealth beneficiaries tested for SARS-CoV-2 by RT-PCR (cartridge-based or plate-based) as prescribed by the IATF and DOH guidelines to DOH-licensed PhilHealth-accredited SARS-CoV-2 testing laboratories.

³ Revised Omnibus Interim Guidelines on Prevention, Detection, Isolation, Treatment, and Reintegration Strategies or COVID-19





¹ Updated Interim Guidelines on Expanded Testing for COVID-19

² Amendment to Department Memorandum No. 2020-0258 entitled Updated Interim Guidelines on Expanded Testing for COVID-19

IV: DEFINITION OF TERMS

- A. A1 refers to frontline workers in health facilities both national and local, private and public, health professionals and non-professionals like students in health and allied professions courses with clinical responsibilities, nursing aides, janitors, barangay health workers, among others⁴. This includes health care workers and non-health care workers involved in COVID-19 response as defined in Republic Act (RA) No. 117125.
- B. A2 refers to senior citizens/persons aged 60 and above prioritized for SARS-CoV-2 testing.
- C. A3 refers to person with co-morbidities including those at high risk for severe disease prioritized for SARS-CoV-2 testing.
- D. A4 refers to person with symptoms of COVID-19 and not identified as A1, A2, and A3.
- E. A5 refers to returning OFWs and Filipino nationals aged 18 and above.
- F. Health care and non-health care workers refer to all public and private medical, allied medical, administrative, technical, support and other necessary personnel employed by, and assigned in hospitals, health facilities, laboratories, medical or temporary treatment and monitoring facilities, or vaccination sites. For COVID-19 pandemic, it also includes those who are involved in COVID-19 response to mitigate transmission and prevent further loss of lives in line with the National Action Plan Against COVID-19 strategy of prevention, detection, isolation, treatment, rehabilitation, and vaccination (PDITR+Strategy).
- G. Co-morbidity existence of more than one disease or condition in a patient at the same time.

POLICY STATEMENTS

A. Availment of the Benefit Package

1. PhilHealth shall align the coverage of the SARS-CoV-2 testing benefit package by amending Annex B "Sub-groups of at-risk individuals for SARS-CoV-2 testing" of PhilHealth Circular No. 2021-0021 entitled "Benefit Packages for SARS-CoV-2 Testing Using RT-PCR Tests (Plate-based and Cartridge-based)" to follow the DOH DM No. 2022-013.

The following table shows the updated priority groups for SARS-CoV-2 testing:

Priority groups	Purpose of SARS-CoV-2 test
A1 - Health Care Workers	For surveillance, to plan health system capacity
A2 – Senior Citizens	

⁴ DOH Administrative Order No. 2022-0005 "Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of the National Development and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) for COVID-19 Vaccines"

⁵ Republic Act No 11712 "An Act Granting Mandatory Continuing Benefits And Allowances To Public And Private Health Care Workers During The Covid-19 Pandemic And Other Future Public Health Emergencies, And Appropriating Funds Therefor"





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Priority groups	Purpose of SARS-CoV-2 test					
A3 - comorbidities and high	Confirming COVID-19 for use of investigational					
risk for severe disease	drugs					
A4 - All except A1, A2 and A3 with symptoms of COVID-19	Confirming COVID-19 after onset of symptoms (optional to test)					
A5 – returning OFWs and Filipino nationals aged 18 and above	To prevent and/or minimize the local spread of COVID-19 in the country					

Table 1: Priority groups for SARS-CoV-2 testing

- 2. It is emphasized that SARS-CoV-2 testing is NOT recommended for asymptomatic close contacts. Instead, symptom monitoring is recommended. Should testing be used, it should be done at least five (5) days from the last day of exposure. Further, SARS-CoV-2 testing is also NOT recommended for screening asymptomatic individuals. Only symptomatic under priority groups A2 and A3 shall be covered by PhilHealth testing benefit package.
- 3. In accordance with the LATF Resolution No. 168 s. 20226, PhilHealth shall cover the COVID-19 testing of the following who are required to undergo facility-based quarantine until the release of their negative RT-PCR test taken on the fifth (5th) day from the date of their arrival:
 - Returning OFWs who are unvaccinated, partially unvaccinated, or individuals whose vaccination status cannot be independently validated;
 - b. Fully-vaccinated Filipino nationals aged 18 and above who have received complete primary series COVID-19 vaccine with no booster shot
- 4. Accreditation guidelines for SARS-CoV-2 testing laboratories shall remain in effect as stipulated in Annex A "Application for Accreditation of SARS-CoV-2 Testing Laboratories."
- 5. All testing claims shall be filed through eClaims using the revised versions of Annexes of this PC.
- 6. To file a claim for reimbursement, the accredited testing laboratories shall submit the following documents to PhilHealth:
 - Properly accomplished SARS-CoV-2 Claims Summary Form (Annex "C") (preferably in MS Excel format or CSV file);
 - b. Scanned copy of the properly accomplished CIF that is prescribed by the DOH (preferably in PDF format);
 - c. Itemized billing statement, which includes the readers' fees (preferably in MS Excel format or CSV file) which shall be required for admitted patients only;

⁶ https://doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/health-update/20220526-IATF-Resolution-168-RRD.pdf



d. Original, photocopy or printed scanned copy (preferably in PDF format), of Annex E: "Certificate of classification of priority groups and actual charges for SARS-CoV-2 test". This form shall also be considered as an equivalent to Statement of Account (SOA) as it contains the actual charges, discounts, and amount of PhilHealth benefits.

For directly filed claims, the following documents are required:

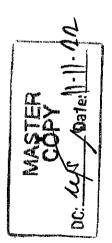
- a. Original copy of the official receipt;
- b. Original, photocopy or printed scanned copy of the Annex D: "Waiver for directly filed claims for SARS-CoV-2 testing package" issued by the PhilHealth-accredited SARS-CoV-2 testing laboratory that the member paid the full amount for the SARS-CoV-2 testing and no PhilHealth deduction was made. The member shall bear the responsibility of keeping the said copy of the waiver for validation purposes during case investigation or domiciliary monitoring; and
- c. Original, photocopy, or printed copy of the Case Investigation Form.
- d. Statement of Account.
- e. Annex E of this Circular.

B. Monitoring and Evaluation

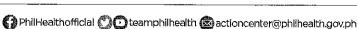
- 1. All PhilHealth-accredited facilities with claims for this benefit package shall be subject to the rules on monitoring prescribed by PhilHealth.
- 2. Feedback mechanisms on the package implementation shall be established to address implementation issues and concerns.
- C. List of Annexes (Posted on the PhilHealth Website at www.philhealth.gov.ph)
 - 1. Annex A Application for Accreditation of SARS-CoV-2 Testing Laboratories
 - 2. Annex B Priority Groups for SARS-CoV-2 Testing

This Annex B Priority Groups for SARS-CoV-2 Testing repeals the previous Annex B "Sub-groups of at-risk individuals for SARS-CoV-2 testing.

- 3. Annex C SARS-CoV-2 Claims Summary Form
- 4. Annex D Waiver for Directly Filed Claims for SARS-CoV-2 Testing Package
- 5. Annex E Certificate of classification of priority groups and actual charges for SARS-CoV-2 Test







VI: PENALTY CLAUSE

Any violation of this PhilHealth Circular shall be dealt with and penalized in accordance with the pertinent provisions of RA No. 11223 and RA No. 7875, as amended by RA Nos. 9241 and 10606, and their respective Implementing Rules and Regulations.

VII. TRANSITORY CLAUSE

- A. All claims with specimen collection dates prior to the effectivity of this PhilHealth Circular shall follow PC No. 2021-0021 titled "Benefit Packages For SARS-CoV-2 Testing Using RT-PCR Tests (Plate-based and Cartridge-based)":
- B. All claims with specimen collection dates beginning from the date of publication shall follow the forms as prescribed in this PhilHealth Circular.

VIII. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision of this PhilHealth Circular shall be declared invalid, unconstitutional, or unenforceable, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected and shall remain enforceable.

REPEALING CLAUSE

This PhilHealth Circular repeals Section V.B.1 of PC No. 2021-0021 and PC No. 2022-0018. All other issuances that are inconsistent with this PhilHealth Circular are hereby modified, amended, and repealed accordingly.

X. DATE OF EFFECTIVITY

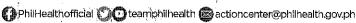
This PhilHealth Circular shall take effect for all SARS-CoV-2 claims with specimen collection dates beginning August 31, 2022, to be published in any newspaper of general circulation or in the Official Gazette. A copy of this PhilHealth Circular shall thereafter be deposited at the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR) of the University of the Philippines Law Center.

ATTY. ELI\DINØ D'. SANTOS

Officer-in-Charge, Office of the President and CEO

Coverage of OFWs for SARS-CoV-2 testing based on IATF Guidelines and Modification of Priority Groups for SAR-CoV-2 Testing Packages based on DOH Guidelines (Rev1)





Reflection Control Services

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Annex A: Guidelines on the Application for Accreditation of SARS-CoV-2 Testing Laboratories

Guidelines on the Application for Accreditation of SARS-CoV-2 Testing Laboratories

- 1. All currently accredited health facilities with valid DOH license for SARS-CoV-2 testing laboratory do not need to apply for accreditation. PhilHealth shall automatically include the said service in their accreditation records with validity starting on the date that the DOH granted its license. Accredited testing laboratory for SARS-CoV-2 in currently accredited health facility shall submit a fully accomplished Auto Credit Payment System (ACPS) form ONLY IF payment for the laboratory benefit shall be separate from regular claims of the accredited health facility.
- 2. Requirements for non-hospital-based testing laboratory for SARS-CoV-2 or laboratory of a non-accredited health facility:
 - a. A valid DOH license as SARS-COV-2 testing laboratory
 - b. Accomplished Provider Data Record
 - c. Performance Commitment (signed on each page)
 - d. Duly accomplished Auto Credit Payment System (ACPS) form
- 3. All requirements for accreditation of testing laboratories mentioned in No. 2 shall be scanned and emailed to the respective PhilHealth Regional Offices. The Provider Data Record, Performance Commitment, and the ACPS forms can be downloaded at https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/downloads/.

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PRO	Email address	Name
1	accre.pro1@philhealth.gov.ph	PRO1- Accreditation
2	accre.pro2@philhealth.gov.ph	PRO2 - Accreditation
3	accre.pro3@philhealth.gov.ph	PRO3 - Accreditation
4A	accre.pro4a@philhealth.gov.ph	PRO4A - Accreditation
4B	accre.pro4b@philhealth.gov.ph	accre.pro4b
5	accre.pro5@philhealth.gov.ph	PRO5 - Accreditation
6	accre.pro6@philhealth.gov.ph	PRO6 - Accreditation
. 7	accre.pro7@philhealth.gov.ph	PRO7 - Accreditation
8	accre.pro8@philhealth.gov.ph	PRO8 - Accreditation
9	accre.pro9@philhealth.gov.ph	accre.pro9
10	pro10aqas@gmail.com	Philhealth Accre
11	philhealthdavao.aqas@gmail.com	philhealthdavao.aqas
12	accre.pro12@philhealth.gov.ph	PRO12 - Accreditation
CARAGA	accre.procaraga@philhealth.gov.ph	PROCARAGA - Accreditation
BARMM	accre.proarmm@philhealth.gov.ph	accre.proarmm
CAR	accre.procar@philhealth.gov.ph	PROCAR - Accreditation
NCR	proncr.hcdmd@yahoo.com	PRO NCR HCDMD

Source: PhilHealth Accreditation Department as of September 22, 2021

4. The validity of accreditation of DOH-licensed stand-alone SARS-CoV-2 laboratories health facilities applying for initial accreditation or reaccreditation due to gap in the previous accreditation shall be from the date of submission of the complete application and ends on December 31 of the current year. Further, the validity of accreditation of health facilities applying for continuous accreditation is from January 1 to December 31 of the current year.

Priority Groups for SARS-CoV-2 Testing

The following reflects the priority groups for SARS-CoV-2 testing:

Priority groups	Purpose of SARS-CoV-2 test
A1 – Health Care	For surveillance, to plan health system capacity
Workers	
A2 – Senior Citizens	
A3 – comorbidities and	Confirming COVID for use of investigational drugs
high risk for severe	
disease	
A4 – All except A1, A2	Confirming COVID after onset of symptoms
and A3 with symptoms of	(optional to test)
COVID-19	
A5 – returning OFWs and	To prevent and/or minimize the local spread of COVID-19
Filipino nationals aged 18 and	in the country
above	1

Source: Department of Health 2022-013



SARS-CoV-2 CLAIMS SUMMARY FORM

Annex C: SARS-CoV-2 Claims Summary Form

Address

Name of the Phill-leath accredited SARS-CoV2 resting laboratory.
Phill-leath Accreditation Number (PAN):

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																Middle name	
																Date of birth (mm/dd/yyy)	
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																MEMBER Last name	
																MEMBER INFORMATION , ast name First name	
												ĺ				Name extension	
																Middle	
																Priority Groups for SARS-CoV-2 Testing (A1, A2, A3, A4, A5)	
																Date of specimen collection (mm/dd/yyyy	
																Date of runnin the PCR test (run/dd/yyyy	
					-	 -	-									Services covered by PhilHealth (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)	
																Services Services PhilHealth (pos/neg) (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)	
																Test kit donated (Y/N)	
\perp																Packag code	
																Total actual charges to patient (Php)	
															err.	Antoong ance application of Iotal actual discounts / deduc Philitealth changes to charges to charges to charges to charge persons patient (Php) with disability, amount guarantee letter;	
	j															Phili-fealth benefit package amount	

I certify that services rendered were recorded in the patients' health records and health care provider records and that herein information given, as well as the items and package amounts indicated, are true and correct.

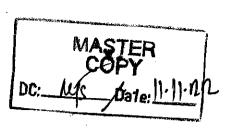
Approved by:

Prepared by:

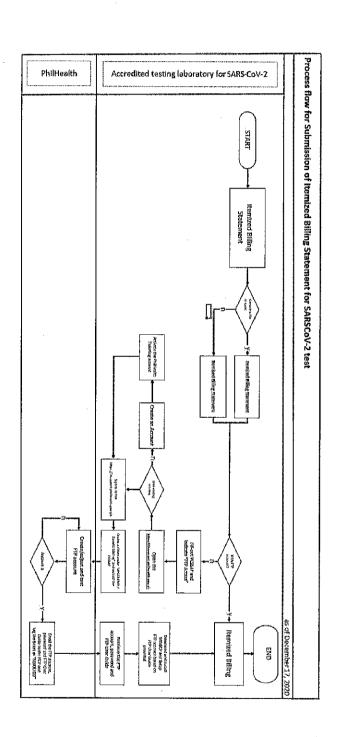
Test kits are donated to the testing laboratory 3 Specimen handling 4 Conduct of RT-PCR testing 5 Analysis and reporting of results 5 Analysis and reporting of results 6 C1973 C1973 C1973 C1973 Laboratory, cost of running the laboratory and the RT-PCR machine for	Refer to the current DOH applicable testing guidelines and protocols	L. Indicate the corresponding priority groups Priority groups for SARS-CoV-2 testing	Signature over printed name of the authorized signatory of the Phill tealth accredited SARS-CoV-2 testing laboratory/FKP
Specimen handling Gonduct of RT-PCR testing Analysis and reporting of results	Scruices covered by PhilHealth: 1 Screening 2 Specimen collection	II. Indicate the corresponding number in the column "Services covered by PhilHealth"	Signature over printed name of the Head of the PhilHeath accredited SARS-CoV-2 testing laboratory/HCP
Test kits are donated to the testing laboratory C1972 C1973 Test kits are donated to the testing laboratory; cost of running the laboratory and the RT-PCR machine for	SARS-CoV-2 testing packages: All services and supplies for the testing are procured and provided by the testing laboratory	III. Indicate the SARS-CoV-2 testing package availed of in the column "Package code"	Date signed
ឧឧ	C19X1 All services and supplies for the resting are procured and provided by the testing	d of in the	

herein shall be emered in the PhilHeath database and may be used for policy research,

Note: Donated test kits should only be claimed either package codes C19T2 or C19T3 and C19X2 or C19X3.



- PhilHealth Ticketing System that is accessible through the link: https://itsupport.philhealth.gov.ph/osticket/ testing laboratories can request FTP accounts by creating a ticket with subject "UPECS-EMR / Benefit Costing" in the 1. PhilHealth shall assign a username and password to each accredited testing laboratory to access the FTP server. Accredited
- the username and password, storage folder and the FTP guide. 2. The accredited testing laboratory will receive an email from PhilHealth indicating the user account information containing
- 3. Each accredited testing laboratory will be assigned a designated storage folder to upload their claims summary form and itemized billing statement.
- laboratories should coordinate with their respective Regional Office IT. 4. All Excel or csv files should be submitted using the FTP server. In the event of system downtime, accredited testing
- 5. For inquiries and/or clarification related to FTP and account creation, please email upecsemr@philhealth.gov.ph.



[PHILHEALTH ACCREDITED SARS-CoV-2 TESTING LABORATORY/HCP LOGO] SARS-CoV-2 Test Waiver

This waiver (original, photocopy or printed scanned copy) together with other supporting documents should be filed within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of specimen collection for directly filed claims for SARS-CoV-2 testing package.

Date	
To PhilHealth:	
This is to certify that based on our records,	
Patient's last name, first name, name exten	
who belongs to priority groupbased on the current DOH a guidelines and protocols, was tested for SARS-CoV-2 at	pplicable testing
Name of PhilHealth accredited SARS-CoV-2 testing laborator	y/HCP
on	
On Date/s of specimen collection (mm/dd/yyyy)	
was charged for the services included in the benefit package for SARS-CoV-2 testing	<u>5</u> .
All charges to the amount of	
Amount in words	
(Php) were fully paid by the patient/member under Of	ficial Receipt No/s.
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The PhilHealth benefit was not availed of or was not deducted from the actual charg	
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The PhilHealth benefit was not availed of or was not deducted from the actual charge reason/s: Reason/s With this waiver, the will n Name of PhilHealth accredited SARS-CoV-2 testing laboratory/HCP from PhilHealth for the benefit package for SARS-CoV-2 testing. This waiver is being issued upon the request of	es for the following ot file reimbursemen
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The PhilHealth benefit was not availed of or was not deducted from the actual charge reason/s: Reason/s With this waiver, the	es for the following ot file reimbursemen

Annex E: Certificate of Classification of Priority Groups and Actual Charges for SARS-Cov-2 Test and Instruction for the Facility

[PHILHEALTH ACCREDITED SARS-CoV-2 TESTING LABORATORY/HCP LOGO]

This certificate (original, photocopy or scanned copy) if accomplished by the swabbing center shall be forwarded to the accredited testing laboratory. The testing laboratory together with other supporting documents should be filed within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of specimen collection for all filed claims for SARS-CoV-2 testing package.

Date		
To PhilHealth:		
This is to certify that based o	n our records	
222 is to corety true based o	Patient's last name, first n	ame, name extension, middle name
who belongs to priority group protocol, was tested SARS-C	oV-2 based on the current DOH	applicable testing guidelines and
at		
N	ame of PhilHealth accredited SARS-CoV-2 testing	ng laboratory/HCP
on		and incurred the following charges:
Date/s of spec	imen collection (mm/dd/yyyy)	and fletifed the following charges,
Place a (🗸) in the appropri No charge to patient If with actual charges		
	Item	Amount (Php)
Total actual charges		
Amount after applica	tion of discounts/deductions (senior lisability, guarantee letter, etc.)	
PhilFlealth benefit pa	ckage amount	
Official receipt no./s		
Signature over printed name of	of the authorized testing laboratory/HC	TD
signature over printed name (the additionized testing laboratory/ Fic	ar representative
Designation of the authorized	d testing laboratory/HCP representative	e Date signed
Conforme:		
Signature over printed name o	of the member/patient/ authorized repr	resentative Date signed
	☐ Spouse ☐ Ch	ild □ Others,
Relationship of the representative to	☐ Siblings ☐ Par	rent specify
nember/patient		
Reason for signing on behalf o	of Patient is incapacitated	
he member/patient	☐ Other reasons:	

