

# BREAKING: Govt recalls lifting of coronavirus lockdown in low-risk areas

*Darryl John Esguerra*

MANILA, Philippines — The government has recalled the lifting of community quarantines in several areas across the country that have “low risk” to coronavirus infection.

According to Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, an amendment on the resolution of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) enforcing different types of lockdown in all areas in the county would be made on Wednesday.

Año said the so-called “low-risk” areas would be placed under modified general community quarantine (GCQ).

“Wala na po tayong areas sa buong Pilipinas na hindi under ng community quarantine. Iba-iba lang po ng level,” Año said in a televised press briefing.

Malacañang announced Tuesday that President Duterte has approved the proposal of the IATF to lift the [movement restrictions](#) in 40 provinces and 11 cities nationwide starting May 16.

Areas under moderate risk would be placed under a general community quarantine, while Metro Manila, Cebu City, and Laguna province, which are considered high-risk areas due to the high concentration of COVID-19 cases, would be placed under modified enhanced community quarantine (ECQ).

Año, vice-chair of the government’s National Task Force in charge of implementing measures to contain the novel coronavirus, said that the decision was made after some local chief executives appealed that they are not yet ready to lift the lockdown in their jurisdictions.

However, Health Secretary Francisco Duque said the signing of the resolution was an “honest mistake” and that he agreed to affix his signature as he was told that the resolution will not identify the areas where the community quarantines would be lifted.

Duque, chair of the IATF, signed the resolution together with Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, the task force’s co-chair.

The following are the areas the government earlier classified as “low-risk”:

**REGION I**

Ilocos Norte\*

Ilocos Sur

La Union\*

Pangasinan\*

Dagupan City\*

**Region IV-B**

Marinduque

Occidental Mindoro

Oriental Mindoro

Romblon

Palawan

Puerto Princesa City

**Region V**

Albay\*

Camarines Norte

Camarines Sur

Catanduanes

Masbate

Sorsogon

Legazpi City\*

Naga City

**Region VI**

Aklan

Antique

Capiz

Guimaras

Iloilo

Negros Occidental

Iloilo City

Bacolod City

**Region VIII**

Biliran

Eastern Samar

Leyte Northern Samar

Western Samar

Southern Leyte

Ormoc City

Tacloban City

**Region X**

Bukidnon

Camiguin

Lanao del Norte

Misamis Occidental

Misamis Oriental

Cagayan de Oro City

**Region XII**

- North Cotabato
- South Cotabato
- Sarangani
- Sultan Kudarat
- General Santos City

**BARMM**

- Basilan
- Lanao del Sur
- Maguindanao
- Sulu
- Tawi-Tawi
- Cotabato City

**(\*Recommendations assuming similar risk classification prevails on May 14, 2020.)**

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*[What you need to know about Coronavirus.](#)*

*For more information on COVID-19, call the DOH Hotline: (02) 86517800 local 1149/1150.*

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