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PH adds France to Covid-19 'red list' amid Omicron threat



By Catherine S. Valente

December 8, 2021

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THE Philippines will prohibit the entry of travelers from France amid the threat of the new Omicron variant of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), Malacañang announced on Wednesday.

Acting Palace spokesman Karlo Alexei Nograles said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) approved the elevation of France to the Red List or a roster of countries deemed as high-risk for Covid-19 effective Dec. 10, 2021, 12:01 a.m until Dec. 15, 2021.

"Passengers who have been to France within 14 days immediately

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a.m of December 10, 2021, but before 12:01 a.m. of December 13, 2021, shall be required to undergo facility-based quarantine for 14 days with an RT-PCR test on the seventh day, with day one being the date of arrival," Nograles said in a statement.

"Notwithstanding a negative RT-PCR result, the completion of the 14-day quarantine is required," he added.

Beginning 12:01 a.m of Dec. 13, 2021 until the end of Dec. 15, 2021, Nograles said that entry in any port of the Philippines shall not be allowed for passengers coming from or who have been to France

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arrival in the Philippines, regardless of vaccination status.

"Only Filipinos returning to the country via government-initiated or non-government-initiated repatriation, and Bayanihan Flights may be allowed entry, subject to existing testing and quarantine protocols for Red List countries/territories/jurisdictions," he said.

As with all international inbound travel, the Palace official said that the testing and quarantine protocols for minors shall follow those of the parent/guardian traveling with them, regardless of the minor's

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He said that children 3 years old and below, regardless of country of origin, shall be exempt from the requirement of presenting a negative RT-PCR test result before boarding the flight, unless symptomatic.

"Notwithstanding the foregoing, passengers who arrived prior to 10 Dec. 10, 2021 and are currently undergoing quarantine shall complete the testing and quarantine protocols in effect at the time of their arrival," he added.

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Meanwhile, Nograles said that all passengers, whether Filipinos or foreigners, merely transiting through France shall not be deemed as having come from or having been to said country if they stayed in the airport the whole time and were not cleared for entry into such country by its immigration authorities.

"Upon arrival in the Philippines, they shall comply with the applicable testing and quarantine protocols for passengers who have not been to any Red List country/territory/jurisdiction," he said.

The Philippines earlier suspended

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Omicron, which has not been detected locally.

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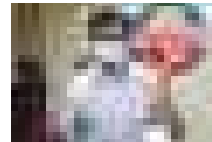
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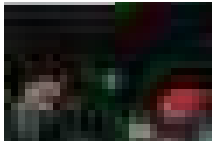
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