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BONGBONG MARCOS GAVE ORDER VERBALLY

PH relaxes protocol after IATF recommended optional face mask use outdoors

By: [Daphne Galvez](#) - Reporter / [@DYGalvezINQ](#) INQUIRER.net / 02:38 PM September 07, 2022

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Residents wearing facemasks cross a street as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 novel coronavirus in Manila. (Photo by Ted ALJIBE / AFP)

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MANILA, Philippines — The government's pandemic task force Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), has recommended wearing face masks outdoors voluntarily, Malacañang announced on Wednesday.

Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles said wearing face masks was recommended as "optional" in open spaces, non-crowded outdoor areas with good ventilation.

However, senior citizens and immunocompromised individuals are "highly encouraged" to continue wearing their masks.

"Ayon doon sa IATF, ang kanilang rekomendasyon ay sa pag-liberalize ng

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across the country.)

For her part, Department of Health officer-in-charge Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has given “verbal approval” to the IATF’s recommendation.

Marcos is currently in Singapore for a state visit, one of the countries which relaxed its face masking rule.

She and Angeles, however, clarified that this is not yet a policy.

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