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Marcos Jr. signs EO allowing voluntary use of face masks indoors, outdoors

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Oct 28 2022 06:49 PM

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People they visit Plaza Miranda in Quiapo, Manila on September 9, 2022. Jonathan Cellona, ABS-CBN News/file

MANILA - President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday approved the voluntary use of face masks indoors and outdoors, amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, under Marcos' Executive Order No. 7, use of face masks is still mandatory in the following settings:

- Healthcare facilities, including but not limited to, clinics, hospitals, laboratories, nursing homes and dialysis clinics
- Medical transport vehicles, such as ambulance and paramedic rescue vehicles
- Public transportation by land, air and sea.

Mask wearing is also still encouraged for the elderly, individuals with comorbidities, immunocompromised persons, pregnant women, unvaccinated individuals, and symptomatic individuals.

EO 7 also mandates the continuous implementation of minimum health standards.

Section 3. Vaccination and Booster Coverage. All local government units (LGUs) are directed to submit regular reports on their vaccination status to the Department of Health. Provinces, highly-urbanized cities, independent component cities and municipalities which are currently at low risk classification, but at Alert Level 2 status because of failure to meet vaccination targets to warrant de-escalation, are highly encouraged to undertake efforts to further expand their vaccination and booster coverage.

Section 4. Assistance and Cooperation of Agencies and LGUs. All departments, agencies and instrumentalities of the government, including state universities and colleges, government-owned or -controlled corporations, and government financial institutions, and LGUs are directed to render full assistance to and cooperation with the IATF for the effective and orderly implementation of this Order.

Section 5. Separability. If any section or part of this Order is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Repeal. EO No. 3 (s. 2022) is hereby repealed. All other orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 7. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

DONE, in the City of Manila, this 28th day of October in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.

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President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday approved the voluntary use of face masks indoors and outdoors, amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Office of the Press Secretary

The latest order comes more than a month after Marcos Jr. allowed the voluntary use of face masks in outdoor settings.

- [Marcos allows voluntary face mask use outdoors](#)

Since the start of the pandemic, the Philippines has logged 3.99 million COVID-19 infections, of which 21,215 are considered active cases, latest data from the DOH showed.

The tally includes over 63,000 fatalities.

So far, some 73.5 million Filipinos are fully vaccinated against the disease. Those who have received the additional jab is at 20.5 million.

- [DOH reports 1,379 new COVID-19 cases, 38 deaths](#)

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