



Client Bulletin No. 30 (Updates on COVID-19 related PH Issuances):

Metro Manila under MECQ again from August 4 to 18

This is a briefing on the issuances as of August 3, 2020 on the following matters in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- A. Metro Manila will be under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) again from August 4 to 18
- B. Intellectual Property Office (IPOPHL) Further Extends until August 10, 2020 the Deadline for Filings and Payments Due for the Period of July 20 to August 7, 2020

A. Metro Manila will be under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) again from August 4 to 18¹

1. The President has put Metro Manila back under MECQ, to take effect from the midnight of August 4 until August 18, 2020.² MECQ is a stricter quarantine measure than General Community Quarantine (GCQ) which was imposed over Metro Manila from June 1, 2020, after the end of the previous MECQ period, and until August 3.

Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal, which are all under GCQ until August 3, will also be under MECQ for the same period.³

The table below sets out the types of community quarantine imposed on various areas of the country pursuant to the August 2, 2020 announcement of the President.⁴

¹ This is an update to the write-up in our Client Bulletin No. 29 at <https://syciplawresources.com/2020/08/01/syciplaw-bulletin-29-gcq-over-metro-manila-extended-until-august-15-2020/>.

² *Metro Manila, 4 provinces to be placed under MECQ upon frontliners' call for tighter restrictions* dated August 2, 2020; <https://www.cnn.ph/news/2020/8/2/NCR-other-provinces-MECQ-August-4.html>; last visited August 3, 2020 at 2:39 PM.

³ *Metro Manila, 4 provinces to be placed under MECQ upon frontliners' call for tighter restrictions* dated August 2, 2020; <https://www.cnn.ph/news/2020/8/2/NCR-other-provinces-MECQ-August-4.html>; last visited August 3, 2020 at 2:39 PM.

⁴ See also *IATF Resolution No. 60-A* dated July 30, 2020; <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/07jul/20200730-IATF-RESOLUTION-NO-60-A.pdf>; last visited August 3, 2020 at 8:39 PM.

Type of Community Quarantine Imposed	Period	Areas Covered
MECQ	August 4 – 18, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal
General Community Quarantine (GCQ)	August 1 – 15, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luzon: Batangas Visayas: Cebu City, Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City, Talisay, Minglanilla, Consolacion (Cebu) Mindanao: Zamboanga City
Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ)	August 1 – 15, 2020	All other areas in the Philippines not mentioned above

2. Comparison of MECQ and GCQ

For the MGCQ and GCQ guidelines, as well as the list of establishments allowed to operate and their corresponding operational capacities, please refer to the relevant issuances of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) and of the Department of Trade and Industry.⁵

The table below sets out some of the differences between MECQ and GCQ. The text in the table is directly quoted from a news report (<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1316025/mecq-in-metro-manila-guidelines-in-infographics>) except for the text in the row on quarantine passes.

Activities or Sectors	MECQ	GCQ
Population	100% stay at home	Stay at home: Vulnerable (e.g., elderly) Transmitters (e.g., youth)
Quarantine Pass	Required ⁶	Not required
Mass Gathering	Highly restricted (5 maximum)	Restricted (e.g., max 10)

⁵ See our Client Bulletin No. 24 dated July 2, 2020 at <https://syciplawresources.com/2020/07/02/syciplaw-bulletin-24-gcq-over-metro-manila-further-extended-until-july-15-period-to-apply-for-vat-refund-extended/>. See also our Client Bulletin No. 26 dated July 21, 2020 at <https://syciplawresources.com/2020/07/21/syciplaw-bulletin-25-gcq-over-metro-manila-is-further-extended-until-july-31-2020/>.

⁶ *Checkpoints set up, quarantine passes to be required again in Metro Manila and four other MECQ areas* dated August 3, 2020; <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/8/3/Metro-Manila-MECQ-quarantine-pass.html>; last visited August 3, 2020 at 9:31 PM.

Activities or Sectors	MECQ	GCQ
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No public transport Flights: No domestic, limited international Controlled inbound travel (OFWs/returning Filipinos) Biking and non-motorized transport encouraged No inter-island travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport allowed with strict social distancing Inter-island travel from GCQ to GCQ is allowed, with safety protocols
Government	<p>Skeleton workforce onsite Others work from home</p>	<p>Full Operational Capacity or Alternative Work Arrangements (e.g., 40 hours, 4-day work week)</p>

For more information about IATF issuances, please contact your account partner.

B. Intellectual Property Office (IPOPHL) Further Extends until August 10, 2020 the Deadline for Filings and Payments Due for the Period of July 20 to August 7, 2020⁷

1. The IPOPHL has issued *IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2020-028B (Continuing Suspension of Cashiering and Receiving Services at the IPOPHL Main Office Until 07 August 2020)* dated July 30, 2020⁸ which further suspends the cashiering and receiving services at the IPOPHL Main Office until August 7, 2020.
2. The circular further provides that “[d]eadlines for filings and payments due for the period of [July 20 to August 7, 2020] are extended until [August 10, 2020].” In the meantime, “[t]he public is encouraged to transact business with IPOPHL through its online facility which shall remain available.”
3. The circular amends *IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2020-028A (Suspension of Cashiering and Receiving Services at the IPOPHL Main Office for the Period of 20 to 30 July 2020)* dated July 24, 2020, which was issued after the IPOPHL initially suspended its cashiering and receiving services at the Main Office from July 20 to July 30, 2020⁹ and extended the deadline for filings and payments due for the said period until August 4, 2020 after one of the IPOPHL personnel testing positive for COVID-19.¹⁰

⁷ This is an update to our write-up in our Client Bulletin No. 28 at <https://syciplawresources.com/2020/07/30/syciplaw-bulletin-28-recent-ipophl-sec-bsp-issuances/>.

⁸ *IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2020-028B*; <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1If7E8THJd7XgjESf1zb1sXcF6fglls3/view>; last visited August 3, 2020 at 4:21 PM.

⁹ *IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2020-028A*; https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dmpikARlmp7hZ71aTEhO_3Z-E2hU8gv/view; last visited August 3, 2020 at 4:37 PM.

¹⁰ *IPOPHL Memorandum Circular No. 2020-028*; https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HvAyD7OrjYAP67_j_PfsttBAMyWqoOfi/view; last visited August 3, 2020 at 4:38 PM.

For more information about IPOPHL issuances, please contact --

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Other COVID-19 related bulletins

The links to our earlier bulletins can be found at the SyCipLaw information hub, <https://syciplawresources.com/>.

Please note that there are other COVID-19 related government issuances that are not covered by our bulletins. For more information about other regulations, please contact your account partner or sshg@syciplaw.com or info@syciplaw.com.

This bulletin contains a summary of the legal issuances discussed above. It was prepared by SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan (SyCipLaw) to update its clients about recent legal developments.

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