

## EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. PCG- 23 SERIES OF 2022

## AN EXECUTIVE ORDER INSTITUTING THE GUIDELINES FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS IN THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF PASIG

WHEREAS, the Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991, states that every local government unit (LGU) shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as the powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare. Under the general welfare clause of the LGC, the LGU shall ensure support in the promotion of the health and safety of its constituents. The LGUs are likewise expected to be capable of responding to problems and pinpointing health issues that need prioritized; capable of monitoring activities relative to health care; and health issues within their respective jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the goal of eradicating tuberculosis by 2035, Republic Act No. 10767: An Act Establishing A Comprehensive Philippine Plan of Action to Eliminate Tuberculosis as a Public Health Problem and Appropriating Fund Therefore was passed on July 27, 2015;

WHEREAS, tuberculosis remains to be a major public health problem in the Philippines and in the City of Pasig. It is one of the top ten leading causes of death and illness. Tuberculosis greatly affects the productive age group of our cities, thereby affecting them economically and the stigma of tuberculosis remains to be deterrent to its elimination;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) has forged a partnership with the Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis (PhilCAT) to develop a "Comprehensive and Unified Policy for Tuberculosis Control in the Philippines" in collaboration with other government agencies and private sectors to harmonize and unify the tuberculosis control efforts in the Philippines.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, VICTOR MA. REGIS N. SOTTO, Mayor of Pasig City, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby adopt the following:

**Section 1.** Coverage. – These guidelines shall apply to all appointive employees of the City Government regardless of appointment status. These guidelines shall also apply to all elective officials and those hired under Contract of Service (COS) and Job Order (JO).

**Section 2.** Method of Treatment. – The City Government of Pasig shall adopt patient-centered approaches in the treatment of tuberculosis while assuring treatment adherence. The following policies shall be observed:

- Screening by chest x-ray shall be required annually among City Government employees, as part of the Annual Physical Examination, with the exception of confirmed pregnant employees. A rapid diagnostic test (RDT) such as Xpert MTB/RIF, shall be the primary diagnostic test for those who will be diagnosed as presumptive TB patients based on the chest X-ray results and for the confirmed pregnant employees.
- All diagnosed drug-susceptible tuberculosis (DS-TB) and drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) cases shall be provided with appropriate anti-TB treatment as soon as possible.





Complete treatment for the whole duration of the prescribed treatment regimen must be strictly observed.

- Recording and reporting of cases shall be implemented in all health centers/TB DOTS facilities in the City of Pasig.
- 4. Treatment response shall be monitored through follow-up smear microscopy and clinical assessment by the Rural Health Physicians or attending physicians.
- 5. There must be an uninterrupted supply of all essential anti-TB drugs and other essential commodities.
- 6. There must be a strong political commitment to ensure sustained comprehensive implementation of the National Tuberculosis Control Program.

**Section 3.** *Information Dissemination.* – The City Health Department (CHD) shall be principally responsible for raising awareness on Tuberculosis Prevention and Treatment through information dissemination. The awareness program shall focus on the nature, transmission, treatment, control and management of TB in the workplace.

## Section 4. Guidelines. - The following shall apply:

- 1. The City Health Department (CHD) shall conduct mandatory Annual Physical Examination (APE) of all employees. The examination shall be held on the birth month of the employees, as detailed in a separate Memorandum Order. Active Case Finding of Tuberculosis disease through Chest X-ray may also be conducted as scheduled for selected group/sectors of City Government employees as deemed necessary. The Human Resource Development Office (HRDO), as the repository of all personal information of the employees of the City Government, shall provide CHD with this information at least one (1) month before the actual conduct of the examinations.
- 2. Appointive and elective employees diagnosed with TB shall be provided with adequate and appropriate anti-TB regimen promptly. Employees shall seek immediate assistance from their health service provider at any TB DOTS-accredited health center in the City of Pasig. Employees testing positive for Tuberculosis shall be placed on mandatory sick leave. Job Order personnel and those hired under Contract of Service, however, shall not be eligible for absences with pay in accordance with the terms and conditions of their contracts.
- 3. For bacteriologically-confirmed (BC) patients or employees (with MTB detected on Xpert exam), two (2) weeks of continuous treatment is necessary before being cleared for resumption of work duties. No BC-TB patients or employees shall be allowed to return to work without a negative Direct Sputum Smear Microscopy (DSSM) examination result and proof of treatment or medical certificate from the health center (TB DOTS facility).
- 4. For clinically-diagnosed TB (CD-TB) employees, they can return to work after one (1) week of uninterrupted TB treatment, for as long as treatment compliance is assured and there is clinical improvement. Existing TB patients or employees should report regularly to their respective TB DOTS facilities/health centers and must present a medical certificate or TB ID card from the Rural Health Physician as proof that the employee-patient is compliant in taking the TB medications.
- 5. Human resource actions such as promotions, transitions from Job Order or COS to Casual, movement from non-career to career service will be acted upon by the HRDO only upon presentation of a medical certificate/clearance issued by a government physician, indicating that the individual is cleared of TB. Human resource actions such as those enumerated shall be deferred until the required clearance is secured.





6. All information including personal data and data on treatment and other examinations of employees and patients with Tuberculosis will be strictly kept confidential based on Republic Act No. 10173 or also known as the "Data Privacy Act of 2012".

**Section 5. Separability Clause.** – The provisions of this Order are considered separable. If for any reasons, any provision or provisions, or parts thereof, be declared invalid or unconstitutional by proper authority or tribunal, the other provisions or parts not declared thereby shall remain valid and enforceable.

**Section 6. Repealing Clause.** – Any order or issuance, or parts thereof, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. Effectivity. – This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE this 7th day of July 2022 at the City of Pasig, Metro Manila.

VICTOR MA. REGIS N. SOTTO City Mayor

Officially Released

ATTY, JOHN VINCENT L CERNAL

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