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The Department of Labor and Employment assures all Filipino workers abroad that the Department, through the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLOs), is closely monitoring all cases linked to the viral pneumonia infections in Wuhan, Hubei Province in mainland China.

To help prevent the spread of the disease, all OFWs are reminded of the following advice¹ from the World Health Organization for tourists and the general public:

1. Avoid close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections;
2. Frequent hand-washing or use alcohol-based hand rub, especially after direct contact with ill people, their environment and before touching the eyes, nose and mouth;
3. Avoid close contact with live or dead farm or wild animals;
4. Travellers with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands);
5. Avoid visiting crowded places and hospitals; wear a mask if necessary; and
6. If developing symptoms such as fever or respiratory symptoms, put on a mask and consult a doctor immediately. Let the doctor know if you have travelled to affected areas before disease onset; suspend work and stay at home for rest if recommended by doctors.

We enjoin our OFW *kababayans* to immediately report suspected cases of OFWs with symptoms to hospitals and the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLOs) for possible assistance.

OFWs are also encouraged to monitor all advisories issued by their host government for information and guidance.

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SILVESTRE H. BELLO III
Secretary

Dept. of Labor & Employment
Office of the Secretary



29 JAN 2020

¹ World Health Organization (2020, January 10). *WHO advice for international travel and trade in relation to the outbreak of pneumonia caused by a new coronavirus in China*. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int>