



Local Government Units Mitigation Response to Covid-19: A Proposed Protocol for Future Pandemic

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Abstract

The advent of pandemic, which is not usual, caught government official off-guarded. Truly, the virus may cripple the economy or the country if people are not properly oriented and the local government units do not have specific protocols that they are going to follow. Rich countries may crush if the responses of the leaders are not judicious. Note that the end goal of each country is to defeat an unseen enemy. Countries may only be prepared in physical adversaries where targets are sighted. They are not prepared and have no weapons to kill a common enemy of mankind. There only means of knowing the enemy is the knowledge in science.

Keywords: COVID-19, Government, local, units, mitigation, pandemic.

INTRODUCTION

In the absence of the basic knowledge of the nature of the enemy, the only means of winning the fight is know our defenses in case of an outbreak. The moment this pandemic, initially heard through mass media everybody become hysterical. Rich and poor become alike for no one will be exempt in this deadly virus. Probably, the reason why such a reaction is that this unprecedented, none of us witness the 1918 influenza pandemic which kills millions of people around the globe. The magnitude of its effect, leaving the victims either dead or alive, which basically depends on immune system which also varies on the age of the victims and the healthcare facilities of the country, eventually causes panic among the populace.

There are sources that the origin maybe in China as the outbreak started from Hubei the Capital of Wuhan, China as people sells wild animals as their exotic foods. These animals such as bats and pangolins are sold in the wet market. These exotic animals mentioned, are the carrier of the corona virus which causes influenza like illnesses with symptoms on fever, shortness of breath and cough. In some cases, diarrhea may come at the advance stage in a symptomatic patient. The asymptomatic patient does not show any symptoms, which is more dangerous because the infected person is not aware that he is contaminated with the disease. Furthermore, these asymptomatic person may cause of the surge of the infection. However, history of travel to the place or country where there is a reported outbreak of the corona virus may help in self-assessment. Mass testing to determine whether person is infected is not practical due to lack of test kits as this pandemic is unprecedented. Besides, it is not a guaranty that those who are tested negative cannot be infected anymore. Thus, mass testing is not logical at an early stage.

This Wuhan virus as it is rightly called as history would call the virus as the place of its outbreak like Ebola virus, which is from the river where is originate, Spanish flu, as it originates in Spain, was later on renamed it to COVID-19 or Corona Virus Disease of 2019. This is so because the Corona virus was discovered in December of 2019. This may be an unprecedented name rather than unprecedented disease given by WHO World Health Organization.

The disease causes tremendous panic buying after the heads states declares Lockdown. Philippine president is the first to declare National Quarantine outside the Mainland China where pandemic widely known to originate. However, there are reports that there are strange flu-like similar to that of corona virus symptoms even prior to the outbreak. These countries are Thailand, New York and Italy. Notably, these countries, except Thailand and some countries that are badly hit by this Wuhan virus, have direct international flight from Wuhan

China. As to where it all started, what is clear is that that outbreak happened in Wuhan, China. Presumably, it is the origin as these virus are coming from bats and pangolin. As to how it was transferred to humans some say, it is because of genetic mutation. Animal virus now transferred to human body. Environmentalists would say that this is due to climate change where the habitat of these animals are exploited or due to global warming. These animals when threatened, produces substance which cause genetic mutation. What is strange in this new corona virus is the presence of additional tentacles which makes it easier to attach to human cells and difficult to detach, thus making it easier to infect. The victim finds it difficult to breath as the virus enters through the mouth or nose (although some says it enters also through the eyes) as the virus may live in the air from a person infected when sneezing or coughing. Thus, one-meter distance as the maximum length that virus might reach when sneezing is the reason for Social Distancing. The latter is the practice where the distance of each person wherever they are, is always at least one (1) meter. On top of that, everybody is required to wear mask whenever they get out from their houses.

CONCLUSION

The national government created Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for COVID-19. One of the members of this specially created Task Force is the Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH). The DOH is task to report cases and classify as Influenza-like illness (ILI), Persons under monitoring (PUM), and Persons under investigation (PUI). Every day, Regional Directors are going to report to the National Government thru IATF additional person contacted with the disease and the death toll. DOH is also in=charge in the contact tracing of those declare positive with COVID-19. All these tasks are intended to flatten the curve and see the progress of the strategy employed. While looking at the graph, it is easy to determine which of these provinces, or islands to remain in Community Quarantine (Observe Social Distancing), Enhance Community Quarantine (Observe Social Distancing and Suspension of public and private utility vehicles) or Total Lockdown (no one is allowed to go out except the head of the family having a quarantine pass issued by the LGU and the front liners). This is intended to curb the effect of the pandemic.

However, some LGUs have different strategy to curb the pandemic; after all, they have different cases, scenarios, which the National may not have the prognosis as much as the LGU does.

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