



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Office of the Court Administrator
Manila

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 78-2022

TO: ALL CONCERNED JUDGES, COURT PERSONNEL AND COURT USERS OF THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVEL COURTS IN AREAS PLACED UNDER ALERT LEVELS 1 AND 2 PER IATF RESOLUTION NO. 165-E

SUBJECT: COURT OPERATIONS FROM 1 APRIL 2022 UNTIL FURTHER ORDERS OF THE COURT

With prior clearance from Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo, in conformity with the guidelines on court operations provided in OCA Circular No. 41-2022 dated 28 February 2022, and pursuant to Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) No. 165-E dated 31 March 2022 placing provinces, highly urbanized cities (HUCs), and independent component cities (ICCs) under their respective Alert Levels 1 and 2 classifications effective 1 to 15 April 2022, the **court operations** in the hereunder concerned areas previously under Alert Level 2, and now categorized under Alert Level 1, shall be as follows:

AREAS UNDER ALERT LEVEL 1
LUZON
Region 4A: Rizal; Region 4B: Oriental Mindoro; and, Region 5: Albay.
VISAYAS
Region 7: Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City.
MINDANAO
Region 10: Bukidnon, Iligan City.

COURT OPERATION GUIDELINES (Alert Level 1)
<input type="checkbox"/> Courts and judicial offices are FULLY OPERATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> Full on-site ¹ staff complement to report for work
<input type="checkbox"/> For Judges without court space or facilities of their own, but they already have their own personnel, maintain a skeleton workforce of at least 75%
<input type="checkbox"/> Night courts are allowed to operate in stations where these have been organized or required
<input type="checkbox"/> Executive Judges may conduct jail visitations as provided for in OCA Circular No. 107-2013 dated 30 August 2013
<input type="checkbox"/> Flag raising/lowering ceremonies can be held

The courts in the following areas previously placed under Alert Level 1 per IATF Resolution Nos. 163-A dated 27 February 2022 and 164-D dated 15

¹ Sec. 6, *Guidelines on the Nationwide Implementation of Alert Level System for COVID-19 Response (as of 14 December 2021)*

OCA Circular No. 78-2022 (Re: Court Operations from 1 April 2022 until further orders from the Court)

March 2022, and which continue to remain in the same Alert Level, shall continue to be governed by the same above guidelines:

AREAS STILL UNDER ALERT LEVEL 1
LUZON
<p style="text-align: center;">National Capital Judicial Region</p> <p>Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR): Abra, Apayao, Baguio City, Kalinga;</p> <p>Region 1: Dagupan City, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan;</p> <p>Region 2: Batanes, Cagayan, City of Santiago, Isabela, Quirino;</p> <p>Region 3: Angeles City, Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Olongapo City, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales;</p> <p>Region 4A: Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, Lucena City;</p> <p>Region 4B: Marinduque, Puerto Princesa City, Romblon; and</p> <p>Region 5: Catanduanes, Naga City.</p>
VISAYAS
<p>Region 6: Aklan, Bacolod City, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo City;</p> <p>Region 7: Cebu City, Siquijor; and</p> <p>Region 8: Biliran, Ormoc City, Tacloban City.</p>
MINDANAO
<p>Region 9: Zamboanga City;</p> <p>Region 10: Cagayan de Oro City, Camiguin; and</p> <p>Region 11: Davao City; and</p> <p>Region 13: Butuan City.</p>

For courts in the herein listed areas that remain under Alert 2 until 15 April 2022, their operations shall be governed by the guidelines as provided in OCA Circular No. 41-2022:

AREAS STILL UNDER ALERT LEVEL 2
LUZON
<p>Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR): Benguet, Ifugao, Mountain Province;</p> <p>Region 2: Nueva Vizcaya;</p> <p>Region 4A: Quezon Province;</p> <p>Region 4B: Occidental Mindoro, Palawan; and</p> <p>Region 5: Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate, Sorsogon.</p>
VISAYAS
<p>Region 6: Antique, Iloilo Province, Negros Occidental;</p> <p>Region 7: Bohol, Cebu Province, Negros Oriental; and</p> <p>Region 8: Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Southern Leyte, Western Samar (Samar).</p>
MINDANAO
<p>Region 9: City of Isabela, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay;</p> <p>Region 10: Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental;</p> <p>Region 11: Davao de Oro, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Occidental, Davao Oriental;</p> <p>Region 12: General Santos City, North Cotabato (Cotabato), Sarangani, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat;</p> <p>Region 13 (CARAGA): Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Surigao City, Surigao del Norte; and</p> <p>Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM): Basilan, Cotabato City, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi.</p>

OCA Circular No. 78-2022 (Re: Court Operations from 1 April 2022 until further orders from the Court)

COURT OPERATION GUIDELINES (Alert Level 2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Courts and judicial offices are PHYSICALLY OPEN
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain a skeleton workforce of at least 80%²
<input type="checkbox"/> For Judges without court space or facilities of their own, but they already have their own personnel, maintain a skeleton workforce of at least 50% to at most 75%
<input type="checkbox"/> Night courts are not yet allowed to operate

Although Ifugao, Mountain Province, Quezon Province, Occidental Mindoro, Palawan, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Sorsogon, Antique, Iloilo Province, Negros Occidental, Bohol, Negros Oriental, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Western Samar (Samar), Southern Leyte, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Zibugay, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Davao de Oro, Davao Oriental, North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, and Surigao del Norte remain under Alert Level 2, the following municipalities/cities have been placed under Alert Level 1:

REGION	MUNICIPALITY/CITY
LUZON	
CAR:	
Ifugao	<input type="checkbox"/> Lagawe, Lamut.
Mountain Province	<input type="checkbox"/> Besao, Bontoc, Sagada
Region 2:	
Nueva Vizcaya	<input type="checkbox"/> Bambang, Bayombong, Dupax del Norte, Quezon, Solano, Villaverde
Region 4A:	
Quezon	<input type="checkbox"/> Tayabas City, Lucban, Mauban, Pagbilao, Plaridel, Polillo, Quezon, Sampaloc
Region 4B:	
Occidental Mindoro	<input type="checkbox"/> Lubang
Palawan	<input type="checkbox"/> Culion
Region 5:	
Camarines Norte	<input type="checkbox"/> Daet, San Vicente
Camarines Sur	<input type="checkbox"/> Bombon, Cabusao, Camaligan, Iriga City, Presentation (Parubcan), San Fernando
Sorsogon	<input type="checkbox"/> Barcelona, Bulusan, Casiguran, Sorsogon City, Gubat, Juban, Magallanes, Prieto Diaz

² Id., Sec. 5(4)

OCA Circular No. 78-2022 (Re: Court Operations from 1 April 2022 until further orders from the Court)

REGION	MUNICIPALITY/CITY
<p>VISAYAS</p> <p>Region 6: Antique Iloilo Province</p> <p>Negros Occidental</p> <p>Region 7: Bohol</p> <p>Negros Oriental</p> <p>Region 8: Eastern Samar</p> <p>Leyte</p> <p>Southern Leyte</p> <p>Northern Samar</p> <p>Western Samar (Samar)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> San Jose, Sebaste</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Anilao, Balasan, Banate, Barotac Nuevo, Barotac Viejo, Bingawan, Concepcion, Dueñas, Guimbal, Janiuay, Lemery, Mina, Pototan, San Dionisio, Santa Barbara</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Enrique B. Magalona (Saravia), La Carlota City, Pulupandan, Sagay City, San Enrique</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Batuan, Corella, Dimiao, Jagna, Lila, Loay, Loboc, Sikatuna, Tagbilaran City</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dumaguete City</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Arteche, Balangkayan, Can-Avid, Borongan City, Jipapad, Maydolong, Salcedo, San Policarpio, Sulat, Taft</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Albuera, Baybay City, Dulag, Matag-Ob, Palo, Tunga</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Anahawan, Maasin City, Hinundayan, Libagon, Limasawa, Macrohon, Padre Burgos, Pintuyan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Capul, Lapinig, Lavezares, San Antonio, San Jose, Victoria</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Marabut, Pagsanghan</p>
<p>MINDANAO</p> <p>Region 9: Zamboanga del Norte</p> <p>Zamboanga Sibugay</p> <p>Region 10: Lanao del Norte Misamis Occidental</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Dapitan City, Dipolog City, Piñan (New Piñan), Polanco, Rizal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ipil, Tungawan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bacolod</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Clarin, Jimenez, Ozamiz City, Panaon</p>

OCA Circular No. 78-2022 (Re: Court Operations from 1 April 2022 until further orders from the Court)

REGION	MUNICIPALITY/CITY
MINDANAO – cont.	
Misamis Oriental	<input type="checkbox"/> Alubijid, Binuangan, El Salvador City, Initao, Laguindingan, Libertad, Lugait, Naawan, Sugbongcogon, Tagoloan
Region 11: Davao Oriental Davao deo Oro	<input type="checkbox"/> Cateel, Mati City <input type="checkbox"/> Montevista
Region 12: North Cotabato (Cotabato)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kidapawan City, President Roxas
South Cotabato	<input type="checkbox"/> Polomolok, Santo Niño
Sultan Kudarat	<input type="checkbox"/> Tacurong City
Region 13 (CARAGA): Agusan del Norte	<input type="checkbox"/> Carmen, Jabonga, Magallanes, Nasipit
Agusan del Sur	<input type="checkbox"/> Bunawan, Loreto, Prosperidad
Dinagat Islands	<input type="checkbox"/> Loreto
Surigao del Norte	<input type="checkbox"/> Tagana-an

All **common court operation guidelines** for areas under Alert Levels 1 and 2, as cited in **OCA Circular No. 41-2022**, shall continue to be in force.

Further, all other issuances of the Court or the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA) that are inconsistent herewith will no longer be applicable to the courts in areas under either Alert Level 1 or 2.

All health and safety protocols against COVID-19 prescribed by the Court and the OCA, as well as those required by the IATF and the Department of Health, shall be complied with whatever is the Alert Level of a particular area.

In the event that there are pressing concerns that the Judges or court personnel may have regarding their operations from 1 April 2022, the same shall be referred to the OCA for appropriate action.

For the strict compliance and observance of all concerned.

1 April 2022


RAUL B. VILLANUEVA
Court Administrator