



Republic of the Philippines  
**Supreme Court**  
Manila

OFFICE OF THE 2023 BAR CHAIR

**NOTICE TO THE 2023 BAR EXAMINEES**

**SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH GUIDELINES  
FOR EXAMINEES IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION;  
REMINDER TO RELY ON OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS**

This morning on September 22, 2023, Metro Manila woke up to an unexpected blanket of smog, aggravating the existing air pollution within the vicinity and posing health risks and alarm to all persons proximate to the area.

To ensure the health and safety of all Bar examinees for the final day of the Bar Examinations on Sunday, September 24, 2023, and as communicated by the Venue Examinee Supervisors via email and official Viber channels for the 2023 Bar Examinations, Bar examinees taking the examinations in local testing centers (LTCs) located in the National Capital Region (NCR) are **STRONGLY URGED** to abide by the following directives:

1. **Limit your exposure.** Stay indoors. Limit outdoor activities to essential needs.
2. **Protect yourselves with N95 masks on Sunday, September 24, 2023.** Per Bar Bulletin No. 6, all examinees are highly encouraged to wear a face mask at all times, except when eating and drinking.

Recent circumstances bring us to strongly advise Bar examinees in the NCR LTCs to secure N95 masks for use this Sunday. If N95 masks are not available, KN95 masks will suffice.

It bears emphasis that the inability of an examinee to wear or bring N95 or KN95 masks to the LTCs is not a ground to disallow their entry therein.

3. **Hydrate regularly.** Drink plenty of water to avoid or reduce throat irritation or constriction. You may bring extra supplies of drinking water, if necessary.
4. **Personal and portable air-purifying devices worn around the neck will be allowed for NCR examinees.** As an exceptional accommodation to Bar examinees in the NCR LTCs, personal and portable air-purifying devices worn around the neck shall be allowed **ONLY** in the NCR LTCs.

However, such devices must:

- (a) Not utilize Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, NFC, or similar data-sharing technology; and
- (b) Not emit or display any light, sound, or other features that may disturb other examinees.

The devices shall be subjected to thorough inspection during the security process. The charger, extra batteries, and other accessories of these devices will be deposited during the security process.

5. **Seek medical attention if necessary.** For those afflicted with asthma or suffering from other respiratory tract issues, please stock up with emergency medicines, eye drops or eye wash, and/or medical devices for good measure. Medical teams will be stationed in all LTCs and shall be at everyone's contingency service to ensure the health of all personnel and examinees.

I reiterate the no-*salubong*-policy in all LTCs. Well-wishers are prohibited from loitering and congregating in areas that are reasonably within the immediate proximity of all LTCs.

The Office of the 2023 Bar Chair is actively coordinating with the LTCs, relevant government agencies, and health professionals to ensure that all examinees will safely complete the 2023 Bar Examinations on Sunday, September 24, 2023.

Stay focused. You are to take all necessary precautions and give due regard to your health.

Also, refuse to fall victim to misinformation and disinformation. Please rely exclusively on the Court's official communication channels as stated in Bar Bulletin No. 1, Series of 2023.

**Under prevailing meteorological conditions, the 2023 Bar Examinations shall still definitely proceed as originally planned.** The Court is concentrating its utmost efforts to help you through these examinations.

We are at the last stretch. Remember that the Court is anticipating your success this coming December.

**Just one day more.**

We can do it.

Please be guided accordingly.

September 22, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. P. L. Hernando", written over a horizontal line.

**RAMON PAUL L. HERNANDO**

*Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines  
Chair, 2023 Bar Examinations*