



Republic of the Philippines  
BATANGAS CITY

Office of the Sangguniang Panlungsod

Tel. No. 722-0304

**ORDINANCE NO. 25 S. 2020**

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES WHICH CAN  
IMPEDE COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING, IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR  
VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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**AUTHORS : HON. EMILIO FRANCISCO A. BERBERABE, JR.  
HON. NELSON J. CHAVEZ  
HON. OLIVER Z. MACATANGAY  
HON. MARIA ALETH LAZARTE  
HON. NESTOR E. DIMACUHA**  
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**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 11332 (An Act Providing Policies and Prescribing Procedures on Surveillance and Response to Notifiable Diseases, Epidemics, and Health Events of Public Health Concern) requires that close contacts, suspects, probable and confirmed cases of COVID-19 to be fully transparent in their dealings with public health authorities regarding contact-tracing of COVID-19 confirmed cases;

**WHEREAS**, contact tracing is one of the main public health interventions for COVID-19 response and shall be the responsibility of the government particularly, of the Department of Health and the Local Government Units;

**WHEREAS**, the Data Privacy Act of 2012 has enough legal safeguards to allow peaceful and orderly contact tracing while guaranteeing the privacy of all individuals;

**WHEREAS**, the processing of personal information for contact tracing is necessary to respond to the current health emergencies;

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to ensure efficient contact tracing of COVID-19 confirmed cases;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD IN SESSION ASSEMBLED:**

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.** – This Ordinance shall be known and cited as, “COVID-19 Contact Tracing Ordinance of Batangas City”.

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the City Government of Batangas to enforce all the means necessary to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Towards this end, the City Government shall be proactive in its interventions through aggressive contact tracing and strict enforcement of public health protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**SECTION 3. COVERAGE.** – This Ordinance shall cover all persons in Batangas City, whether residents of, or staying temporarily in Batangas City, during the period of pandemic such as but not limited to COVID-19.



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**SECTION 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS.** – Whenever used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

- a. **Close Contact** – any individual who has within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated;
- b. **Contact Tracing** - the identification, listing and follow-up of persons who may have come into close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case;
- c. **Confirmed COVID-19 case** – any individual who tested positive for COVID-19 through laboratory confirmation at the national reference laboratory, subnational reference laboratory, or a DOH-certified laboratory testing facility;
- d. **Notifiable Disease** – refers to a disease that by legal requirements, must be reported to the public health authorities;
- e. **Probable COVID-19 case** – a suspect case for whom testing for the COVID-19 virus is inconclusive being the result of the test reported by the laboratory or could not be performed for any reason;
- f. **SARS-COV-2** – the virus which causes COVID-19. The virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes;
- g. **SUSPECT COVID-19 Case.** – a patient with any acute/severe respiratory illness and a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset; or having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset; or in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation;

**SECTION 5. PROHIBITED ACTS.** – The following acts are prohibited under this Ordinance:

- a. Verbal and physical threats to disclose personal information, from probable, suspected, and close contact cases of COVID-19, by persons authorized for contact tracing;



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- b. Refusal to submit to testing and other activities resulting to the non-cooperation of persons and entities that should report and/or respond to notifiable diseases such as COVID-19 or health events of public concern;
- c. Malicious falsification, in whole or in part, of COVID-19 test results, including the tampering of medical records and forgery of medical signatures and other information;
- d. Violation of 14 days quarantine and other appropriate public health protocols for confirmed, probable, suspected, and close contacts of COVID-19 cases;
- e. Unauthorized and bogus contact tracing not recognized by the Department of Health and City Health Office;
- f. Willful and malicious lying of information needed for contact tracing forms such as, but not limited to travel history and medical history;
- g. Non-disclosure of identity of persons who have been in close contact with the probable, suspect, or confirmed COVID-19 case;
- h. Improper disposal and documentation of COVID-19 tests and other pertinent information by the patient or any person who had access to such information.

**SECTION 6. PENALTIES.** – Any person found violating the prohibited acts provided in this Ordinance shall suffer a fine of not less than P5,000.00 or imprisonment of not less than one (1) month or both at the discretion of the Court.

**SECTION 7. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** – If for any reason, any part or provision of this ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, any part or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 8. REPEALING CLAUSE.** – All ordinances, resolutions, rules and regulations, inconsistent with any of the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.** – This Ordinance shall take effect after completion of ten (10) days posting thereof in conspicuous places in Batangas City.



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ENACTED by the Sangguniang Panlungsod this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.

  
**ATTY. OLIVA D. TELEGATOS**  
Secretary  
Sangguniang Panlungsod

ATTESTED:

  
**EMILIO FRANCISCO A. BERBERABE, JR.**  
Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

  
**BEVERLEY ROSE A. DIMACUHA**  
City Mayor

Date Approved: AUG 20 2020

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
BATANGAS CITY**

**OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD**

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION HELD BY THE  
MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF BATANGAS CITY  
ON AUGUST 18, 2020 VIA ZOOM APPLICATION**

**PRESENT:**

Hon. Emilio Francisco A. Berberabe Jr.,	Presiding Officer
Hon. Alyssa Renee A. Cruz,	Councilor
Hon. Aileen Grace A. Montalbo,	“
Hon. Nestor E. Dimacuha,	“
Hon. Karlos Emmanjuel A. Buted,	“
Hon. Gerardo A. Dela Roca,	“
Hon. Oliver Z. Macatangay,	“
Hon. Nelson J. Chavez,	“
Hon. Julian B. Villena,	“
Hon. Michael Thomas T. Pastor,	“
Hon. Isidra “Ched” M. Atienza,	“
Hon. Maria Aleth A. Lazarte,	“
Hon. Lorenzo A. Gamboa, Jr.,	“
Hon. Angelito “Dondon” A. Dimacuha,	ABC-Rep.
Hon. Marjorie A. Manalo,	SK-Fed. Pres.

On motion of Councilor Chavez seconded by Councilor Macatangay, the following Resolution was Adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. 229 S. 2020**

**APPROVING THE ORDINANCE PROHIBITING ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES  
WHICH CAN IMPEDE COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING, IMPOSING PENALTIES  
FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, EXEMPTING FROM  
THE THREE-READING RULE**

**RESOLVED**, to approve the ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Prohibiting Actions and Activities which can Impede COVID-19 Contact Tracing, Imposing Penalties for Violation Thereof and for Other Purposes”, Exempting from the Three-Reading Rule.

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 229 S. 2020 was approved by the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Batangas City during its Regular Session held on August 18, 2020.

  
**ATTY. OLIVA D. TELEGATOS**

Secretary  
Sangguniang Panlungsod

**ATTESTED:**

  
**EMILIO FRANCISCO A. BERBERABE, JR.**

Presiding Officer