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**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 072– 2022**

**AN ORDER APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR EPIDEMIOLOGY AND SURVEILLANCE**

**WHEREAS,** the Republic of the Philippines is committed to safeguarding the health and well-being of its citizens through comprehensive public health measures;

**WHEREAS,** Republic Act 11332, also known as the "Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act," is a vital law that emphasizes the necessity of a strong disease surveillance and response system. This legislation ensures the prompt reporting of notifiable diseases and public health events, enabling early detection and rapid intervention. Compelling healthcare entities to report such cases, forms the foundation for proactive health management, reducing disease transmission, and protecting the well-being of the community. Essentially, Republic Act 11332 establishes a robust framework for monitoring and addressing public health threats, enhancing a nation's health security and resilience against emerging risks.

**WHEREAS,** Republic Act 11223, known as the "Universal Health Care Act," is a landmark legislation in the Philippines designed to provide equitable access to quality healthcare services for every Filipino. This law acknowledges the pivotal role of epidemiology and surveillance in achieving this objective. Epidemiology enables a deep understanding of health trends and causes, while surveillance ensures timely disease detection and monitoring. By emphasizing these tools, the Act underscores its commitment to evidence-based healthcare planning and decision-making. This approach allows for efficient resource allocation, tailored interventions, and improved health outcomes, while also ensuring adaptability to emerging health challenges. In essence, Republic Act 11223 recognizes that a robust epidemiological and surveillance system is fundamental to realizing universal and equitable healthcare access in the Philippines.

**SECTION 1: PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The National Guidelines for Epidemiology and Surveillance, as outlined in Annex A of this Executive Order, have been officially endorsed and adopted. These guidelines will function as the established and recognized framework for the collection, analysis, and reporting of data pertaining to notifiable diseases and other critical health events of public health significance. In essence, they set the standards and procedures that healthcare professionals, institutions, and relevant authorities across the nation must follow when dealing with disease surveillance and epidemiological data. By formalizing these guidelines through executive approval, the government is reinforcing its commitment to robust and consistent data management practices, which are essential for early detection, efficient response, and effective management of public health threats. This ensures a unified and systematic approach to monitoring and addressing health concerns, enhancing the overall health security and well-being of the population.

**SECTION 2: IMPLEMENTATION**

The directive mandates that all relevant government agencies, local government units (LGUs), healthcare facilities, and healthcare practitioners operating within the jurisdiction must fully comply with and actively put into practice the National Guidelines for Epidemiology and Surveillance, as detailed in Annex A. This comprehensive requirement ensures that every level of government and healthcare provider, from national agencies to local units and individual practitioners, must adhere to the prescribed protocols for collecting, analyzing, and reporting epidemiological data. This standardized approach promotes a coordinated and consistent response to public health issues, enabling early detection and efficient management of health threats, thereby strengthening the nation's overall capacity to address health emergencies effectively.

**SECTION 3: MONITORING AND REPORTING**

The directive appoints the Municipal Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (MESU) under the Municipal Health Office (MHO) as the primary authority responsible for overseeing and enforcing the National Guidelines for Epidemiology and Surveillance within the municipality. Moreover, it obligates all relevant agencies and entities to regularly submit surveillance reports and disease notifications to the MESU through established reporting procedures. This centralization of reporting mechanisms streamlines data collection, enhances transparency, and strengthens the municipality's ability to detect and respond to health threats efficiently. Essentially, the MESU plays a pivotal role in managing public health data and ensuring its timely dissemination to facilitate coordinated responses and effective decision-making.

**SECTION 4: FUNDING AND RESOURCES**

The provision states that the Municipal Health Office (MHO) is responsible for budgeting and providing the necessary financial and other resources to effectively implement the National Guidelines for Epidemiology and Surveillance in the municipality. This includes funding for surveillance activities, data analysis, and reporting as outlined in the guidelines. Additionally, the directive allows the MHO to seek additional funding if the allocated resources are insufficient to strengthen disease surveillance and response efforts. This approach ensures flexibility and adaptability in responding to evolving health challenges, emphasizing the commitment to prioritize public health and allocate resources accordingly to safeguard the community's well-being.

**SECTION 5: EFFECTIVITY**

"This Executive Order shall take effect immediately" indicates that the directives and regulations contained within the order will be put into action without any delay. This is typically used when quick and decisive measures are needed, especially in response to urgent situations like crises or public health emergencies. It ensures that the order's provisions become operational right away, allowing for

rapid responses to critical issues and eliminating any waiting period or postponement. In essence, it emphasizes the urgency and immediate implementation of the order's instructions.

Done this 18th of November 2022, here at the Municipal Hall of Santa Maria, Province of Bulacan.

**BARTOLOME R. RAMOS**
Municipal Mayor

ANNEX A: National Guidelines for Epidemiology and Surveillance