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PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN
Lingayen
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OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN SECRETARY

CERTIFICATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that at the regular session duly constituted of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Province of Pangasinan, held on February 22, 2021 at Lingayen, Pangasinan, the following provincial ordinance was approved:

Authored by SP Member Jeremy Agerico B. Rosario and co-authored by all Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan

PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 258-2021

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE OPERATION OF THE PANGASINAN MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS LABORATORY

WHEREAS, the State is mandated to protect and promote the right to health of the people under Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, and local government units are empowered to exercise necessary, appropriate and incidental powers for its efficient governance in promotion of general welfare, as provided by Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as Local Government Code of 1991;

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that laboratory results to detect emerging and re-emerging diseases be obtained properly, efficiently and expeditiously, the Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory was established by virtue of Provincial Ordinance No. 245-2020;

WHEREAS, Department of Health Administrative Order No. 2007-0027, dated August 7, 2007, titled "Revised Rules and Regulations Governing the Licensure and Regulation of Clinical laboratories in the Philippines" provides the revised minimum standards for clinical laboratories which ensure the accuracy and precision of laboratory examinations in order to safeguard public health and safety;

WHEREAS, Department of Health Administrative Order (A.O.) No. 2020-0014 dated April 7, 2020, titled "Guidelines in Securing a License to Operate a COVID-19 Testing Laboratory in the Philippines" was issued as a strategy to expand the testing capacity for SARS-CoV-2 in the country;

WHEREAS, Provincial Resolution No. 477-2020 entitled: Urging Local Government Units in the Province of Pangasinan to Allocate Augmentation of Funds for the Purchase of Needed Test Materials, specifically the Viral Transport Medium (VTM), for the use of their constituents undergoing COVID-19 Tests at the Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, was enacted as a joint responsibility between local government units to extend aid to the people of Pangasinan ensuring equal access and affordable laboratory diagnostic services;



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WHEREAS, provisional guidelines and standards should be set up in accordance with DOH A.O. No. 2020-0014, to ensure the sustainability and maintenance of quality and safety at all times of the molecular diagnostic's and laboratory facility of the Province;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member Jeremy Agerico Rosario (Chairman on the Committee on Health), and co-authored by all Members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Pangasinan in regular session duly assembled hereby ordains;

Section 1. TITLE- This Ordinance shall be known as "An Ordinance Providing for the Operation of the Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory".

Section 2. PURPOSE- To provide assured quality laboratory services, thus ensuring accurate and expeditious laboratory diagnostic aid.

Section 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS- For purposes of this Ordinance, the following are defined as follows:

- a. **DOH** - Department of Health
- b. **LGU** - Local Government Unit
- c. **RT- PCR** - Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction, a PCR test designed to detect, measure and study RNA viruses. It allows a single strand of RNA to be translated into complementary DNA which will then be amplified following the routine PCR method.
- d. **4Ps** - Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
- e. **PHIC** - Philippine Health Insurance Company
- f. **PPH** – Pangasinan Provincial Hospital
- g. **PMDL** – Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory
- h. **DOH-LTO** – Department of Health License to Operate, a formal authorization issued by the DOH through the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) to an individual, partnership, corporation or association seeking to perform SARS-CoV-2 detection in a COVID-19 testing laboratory in compliance with the requirement prescribe in DOH Administrative Order.

Section 4. COVERAGE – The Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory shall cater to detection of Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases, particularly but not limited to COVID-19 related cases using the Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR), and shall serve the people within the territorial jurisdiction of the Province and extend its laboratory services to people from component municipalities and cities.



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Section 5. IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS – The Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory shall function in accordance with DOH Administrative Order No. 2020-0014 as amended by DOH Administrative Order No. 2020-0014-A, as follows:

- a. The Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, particularly the COVID-19 testing laboratory shall be supervised by a Board-Certified Clinical Pathologist.
- b. The Reporting of results in COVID-19 testing laboratories shall be in accordance with the following issuances:
 1. Republic Act No. 11332, also known as the “Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act”.
 2. Administrative Order No. 2020-13 dated April 9, 2020, titled Revised Administrative Order No. 2020-0012 “Guidelines for the Inclusion of the CORONA Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the List of Notifiable Diseases for Mandatory Reporting to the Department of Health” dated March 17, 2020.
 3. Department Memorandum No. 2020-0110 dated March 13, 2020 titled “Directive to all Public and Private Hospitals and Health Care Facilities on Reporting Coronavirus Disease (COVID-2019)”.
- c. **PERSONNEL** – The Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory shall have an adequate number of personnel, and shall initially function on two (2) shifts, but may be adjusted accordingly, depending on the workload. The required personnel shall be contracted from among qualified applicants, pending the creation of plantilla positions for the purpose.
 1. Initially, the PMDL shall have the following personnel,
 - i. One (1) Board Certified Clinical Pathologist;
 - ii. Two (2) Analysts per eight (8) hour shift, who must be Registered Medical Technologists or allied health professionals with a Bachelor’s degree relevant to the job, and with knowledge, experience, and skills in molecular biology techniques, such as Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Biology, Applied Biology, Biochemistry, and Microbiology;
 - iii. One (1) Aide per eight (8) hour shift;
 - iv. One (1) Receptionist per eight (8) hour shift;
 - v. One (1) Encoder per eight (8) hour shift.



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2. The Laboratory Staff shall have the following trainings:
 - i. Fundamentals of Biosafety and Biosecurity, which shall cover Biological Risk Assessment, Mitigation Controls (engineering, practices and procedures, administrative), Personal Protective Equipment, specimen transport, waste management, decontamination and disposal, and Emergency Responses (biological spill drill),
 - ii. Molecular Diagnosis or Molecular Laboratory Diagnostics for Clinical Pathologist and Analysts.

Section 6. MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS LABORATORY SERVICE FEE

- a. The general rule is that qualified Philhealth members shall not be charged out of the pocket fees, as the same shall be on account of Philhealth;
- b. The foregoing amounts shall be charged as service fee based on approved PHIC and DTI price regulation, including facilities that are under a public-private partnership agreement. The service fee shall be as follows:

Category	
Private	PhP 4,500.00
Public	PhP 3,800.00

Those under the category of Private are patients endorsed by private hospitals and walk-in clients who wish to avail of the services for employment, travel or other lawful purposes. Those endorsed by public hospitals, government agencies and public offices and LGUs are under the category of Public.

- c. The Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics and Laboratory may cause an increase of the above service fee for COVID-19 testing or other laboratory services in an amount not exceeding 10% of the above amount, depending on the current prevailing prices of laboratory reagents and supplies, provided that the same shall be in accordance with PHIC and DTI price regulation. Any increase exceeding 10% of the above amount can only be made through subsequent legislative enactment.

Section 7. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS – The following rules shall be implemented on the payment fees:

- a. Philhealth Sponsored Member/s and/or dependents, including Senior Citizens with appropriate Health Insurance and members of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) shall not be charged, except if they fail to provide requirements mandated by Philhealth and/or approved regulations of DOH;



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- b. Prior to testing, the patient or the next of kin shall provide all information and data required by Philhealth and DOH, and shall comply with the DOH Memoranda on reporting;
- c. The confidentiality rule and principles of the Data Privacy Law shall be observed, subject to the requirements of DOH Memoranda on mandatory reporting;
- d. Exceptional and other meritorious cases as determine and approved by the Local Chief Executive of component municipality/ies or city/ies.

Section 8. CONTINUING EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM – The PDML shall be included in the Annual Plan and Programs of the health department, including the continuing education of personnel and advocacy program regarding the improvement and proper management and operation of the laboratory.

Section 9. COMPLIANCE WITH DOH STANDARDS– The Province of Pangasinan, shall, through the recommendations of the Provincial Health Office, ensure compliance with the minimum requirements set by the DOH regarding the operations of Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics and Laboratory.

Section 10. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS - The Provincial Government of Pangasinan shall operate the Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory using the Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) and cater to the needs of component Local Government Unit/s and/or Private Entity/ies within the province, preferably through with execution of corresponding Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the parties, subject however, to the price range reference provided by concerned authorities (DTI, DOH & PHIC).

- A. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) shall, among others, include provisions on the following:
 1. Specimen or specimens that were tested by the Pangasinan Provincial Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory with no or incomplete filled-out Philhealth CF2 Form and/or CIF, shall be the responsibility of endorsing government agency, hospital or LGU concerned, provided that, a reasonable time shall be accorded to the partner agency to comply with the requirements.
 2. Specimen or specimens with invalid result(s) after re-run (test done twice) which were not paid by Philhealth, shall be on account of the endorsing agency, hospital or LGU concerned.
 3. Patients Philhealth Claims that were filed but denied by Philhealth due to reasons within the control of the partner agency or the Disease Reporting Unit/Hospitals concerned.



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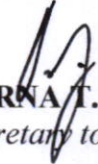
4. Specimen or specimens to be tested from private health care institution partners shall be charged with the corresponding laboratory service fee/s based on the approved PHIC and DTI price range referred in Section 6.

Section 11. FUNDING – There is hereby appropriated the amount of P 5 Million pesos for the operation and maintenance of the Pangasinan Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory chargeable against the local health fund of the Province.

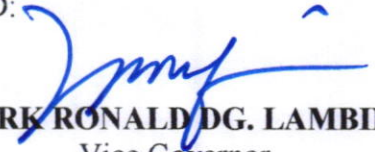
Section 12. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE - Any provision or part of this Ordinance which may be declared unauthorized or rendered void by any judicial authority or competent authority, the provision which are not affected by such declaration shall remain valid and effective.

Section 13. EFFECTIVITY - This Ordinance shall take effect after compliance with the posting requirement under the Local Government Code of 1991.

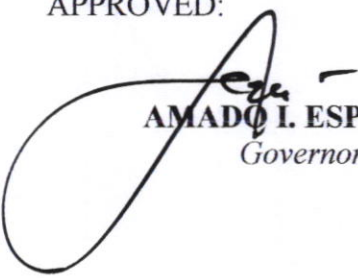
CERTIFIED BY:


VERNA T. NAVA-PEREZ
Secretary to the Sanggunian

ATTESTED:


MARK RONALD DG. LAMBINO
Vice Governor
(Presiding Officer)

APPROVED:


AMADO I. ESPINO III
Governor