

## ADVISORY # 7 ON THE COVID VIRUS: COMPRESSED OFFICE HOURS FOR CONSULAR SERVICES

## The health and well-being of all Filipino nationals remains our top priority.

In accordance with the guidance provided by BC health authorities on mass gatherings and to do our share in delaying the spread of COVID-19 by breaking transmission chains, the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver is constrained to adopt the following measures effective 17 March 2020:

- 1. Consular services will be rendered only from 10 AM to 3 PM, Mondays to Fridays, to avoid having applicants travel during peak commute hours.
- Considering advisory from health authorities that there is an increased risk of more severe outcomes for older adults, courtesy lane services are temporarily suspended.
- 3. For passport services, only applicants with confirmed appointments will be entertained. All previously confirmed appointments from 9-10 am and 3-5 pm will be entertained anytime between 10AM to 3 PM of the same day. Future appointments may be made through the following link: <a href="https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/6kpgv4zc/">https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/6kpgv4zc/</a>.
- 4. For applicants who have already applied for passports and have previously opted for pick-up, kindly send self-addressed Xpresspost envelopes with tracking number through mail (Attention: Passport Releasing Section) so that the new passports can be mailed to them.
- 5. For civil registry, dual citizenship and visas, applicants are required to send their applications by mail. Please visit our website ( www.vancouverpcg.org) for a full list of requirements.
- 6. For those who believe there is a pressing need to come to the Consulate in person for notarial services, please book an appointment through the following link: <a href="https://vancouverpcg.dfa.gov.ph/appointment">https://vancouverpcg.dfa.gov.ph/appointment</a>.
- 7. Only emergency cases will be accepted without an appointment. For your guidance, the following are considered emergency cases:
  - Medical emergency;
  - Death in the family; and
  - Legal emergency (e.g. subpoena or summons from the Court, work permit renewal, etc.)

The Consulate will accommodate <u>emergency cases</u> from Monday to Friday, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. only.



## CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES VANCOUVER

- 8. Scheduled oath taking ceremonies for dual citizenship are postponed indefinitely. The Consulate will notify applicants of the new schedule via email.
- For Labor related queries, you may email POLO Vancouver at <u>polo.vancouver@yahoo.ca</u> or call the hotline at 604 7673354. Employment contract verification may be mailed. OEC issuances is strictly by appointment only.
- 10. For renewal of OWWA memberships, please email vancouver@owwa.gov.ph.
- 11. Applicants requiring transactions with the Social Security System (SSS) may email cruzadaja@sss.gov.ph or call telephone number 604 6411234.

We will continue to respond to your queries via telephone (604- 685-1619), email (<a href="mailto:vancouverpcg@telus.net">vancouver</a>), Facebook (PhinVancouver) or Twitter (@PhinVancouver)

For emergencies, you may also call our 24/7 duty officer hot line at (604)653-5858.