



Republica de Filipinas
Ciudad de Zamboanga

OFICINA DEL ALCALDE

BACKGROUND

The City of Zamboanga stands in solidarity with cities across the nation and the globe who are in the midst of fighting their own battles versus the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). In these times of uncertainties and great challenge, I take comfort and inspiration from the courage of fellow mayors and colleagues in government service, and the initiatives they are undertaking to safeguard their communities against the impact of COVID-19.

As of April 23, Zamboanga City has been under enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) for 35 days. The first positive COVID case was reported on March 24 and since then, it has registered 8 positive cases – 6 in Zamboanga City and 2 residents who are based in Manila. Three of the positive COVID cases have recovered while 1 has died. It has 267 COVID-19 suspects (former persons under monitoring (PUI) in old Department of Health classification), of which 107 have tested negative and 76 with pending results.

On April 24, the national government has already allowed provinces and cities outside the capital to ease quarantine restriction with the adoption of the general community quarantine (GCQ) protocols. Zamboanga City, however, remains under enhanced community quarantine as continued precaution due to its high suspect cases.

CURE THE SICK, FEED THE HUNGRY, WE ARE THE FRONTLINE

Zamboanga City's battle plan versus COVID stresses these key points: a) enforce a community quarantine that is strict but tempered with compassion and sensitivity to prevent and contain the spread of the virus, b) feed the hungry by ensuring access and delivery of food and basic necessities to families who are most vulnerable and below poverty threshold, and c) cure the sick by providing all necessary support to protect and ensure optimum functionality of hospitals, health workers, and to capacitate the barangay health emergency response teams (BHERTs).

Our COVID-19 response emphasizes the importance of individual responsibility as we rely on residents and barangays to be the first line of defense to prevent the spread of the virus. The barangays are designated as frontliners, tasked with enforcing stay-home protocols, monitoring their areas of responsibilities, and maintaining order, to keep our medical facilities from being overburdened.

We follow the COVID-19 directives of the national government, but we also take cognizance that management of the COVID-19 threat in the local levels requires a local approach. We depend heavily on the advice and recommendation of health experts in the enforcement of policies in the city based on the situation on the ground.

The strict enforcement of Zamboanga City's enhanced community quarantine not only serves to protect the city but also neighboring provinces and cities in the Zamboanga Peninsula and BASULTA region which have been now identified as low risk areas by the national government.

Below are the important actions and policies implemented by the local government versus COVID-19:

ACTIONS ON RESPONSE STRUCTURE AND FRAMEWORK



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1. March 9 - Activation of local inter-agency Task Force COVID headed by the Mayor thru Executive Order 548-2020



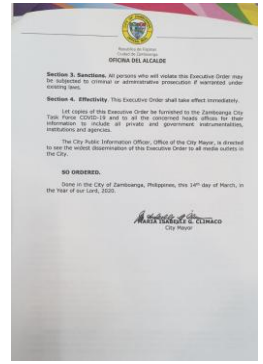
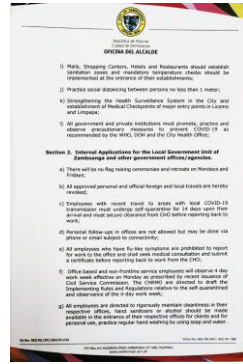
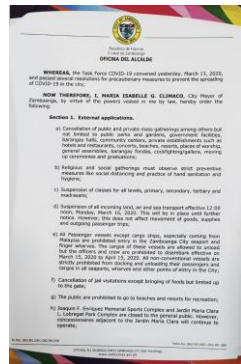
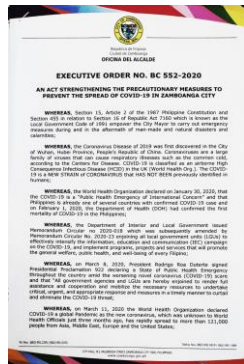
2. March 12 - Activation of TF COVID Task Groups on TG Entry Point Quarantine, TG Contact Tracing, TG Treatment and Containment and TG Risk Communication





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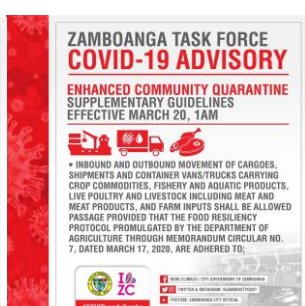
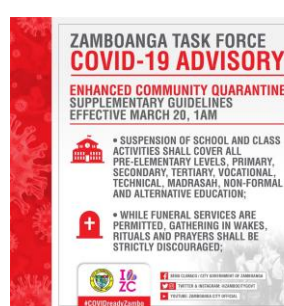
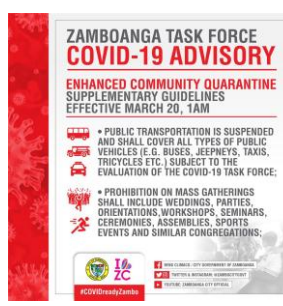
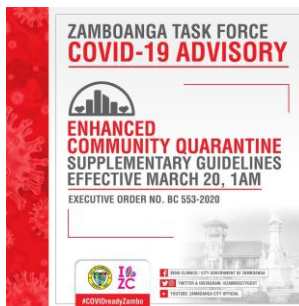
3. March 14 – Issued Executive Order No. BC 552 – 2020 “An Act Strengthening the Precautionary Measures to Prevent the Spread of Covid-19 in Zamboanga City”



4. March 16 - Establishment of 24/7 Risk Communication Operations Centers with Health Lines and Security Lines manned by personnel from Public Information, Events, City Health Office, and the Zamboanga City Police Office



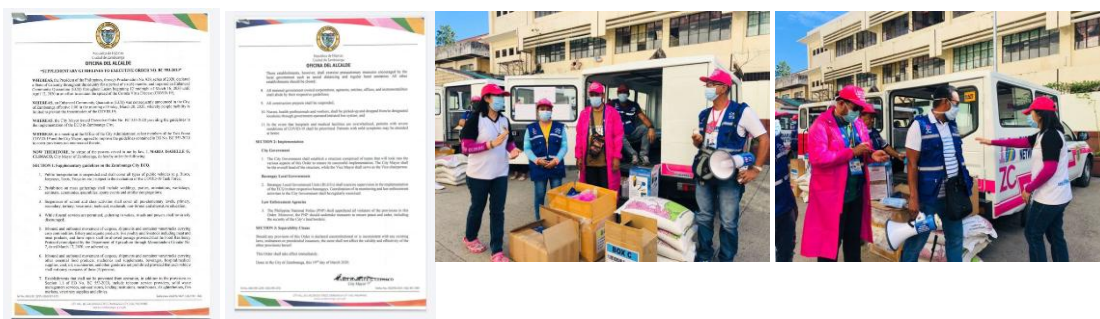
5. March 18 - Executive Order No. BC 553-2020 - An Act Declaring an Enhanced Community Quarantine in Zamboanga City for the Impending Spread of Covid-19





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6. March 20 – Implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in Zamboanga City



7. March 20 - Assignment and designation of roles and responsibilities for LGU Department Heads and City Council



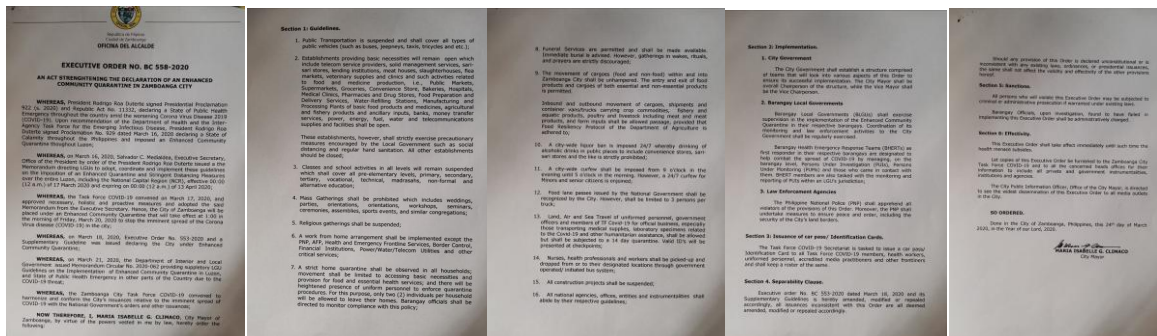
8. March 24 – Zamboanga City Medical Center (ZCMC) recognized as COVID-19 facility in Zamboanga Peninsula, and turnover of ADZU Lantaka campus as isolation and treatment facility



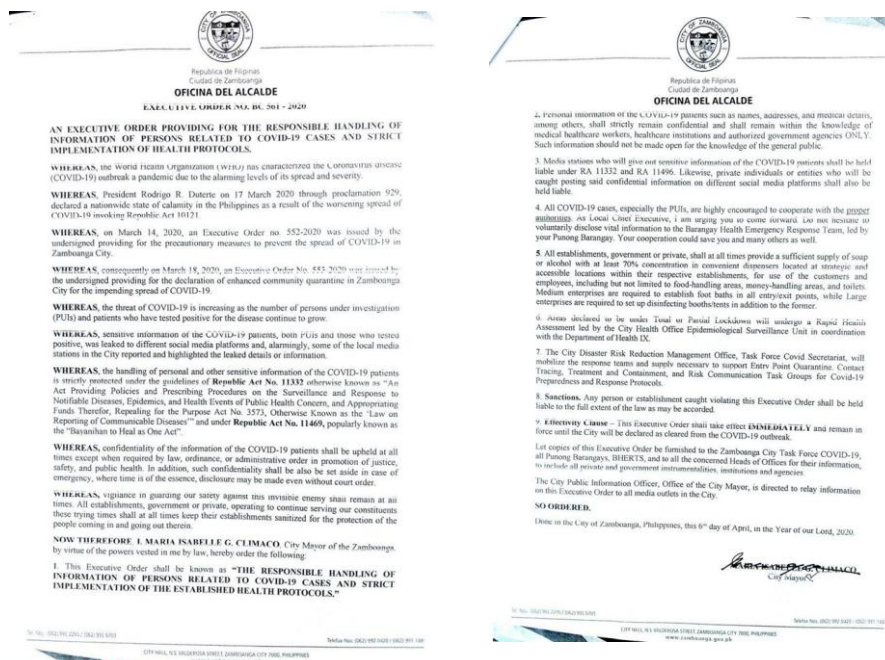


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9. March 31 - -2020 strengthening the declaration of an Enhanced Community Quarantine emphasizing the guidelines and the ROLE OF THE BARANGAYS



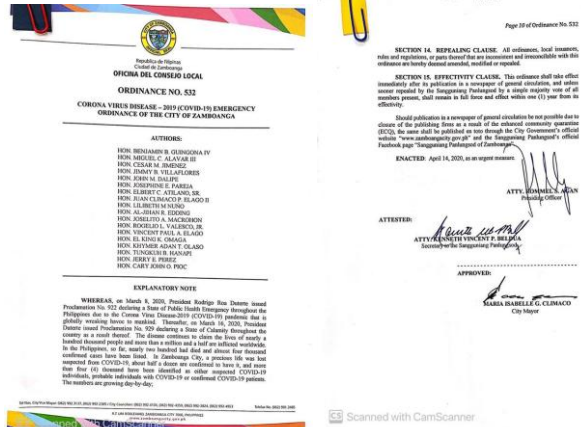
10. March 31 - -2020 strengthening the declaration of an Enhanced Community Quarantine emphasizing the guidelines and the ROLE OF THE BARANGAYS



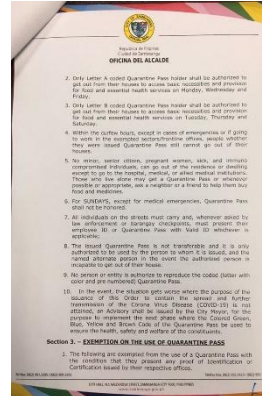
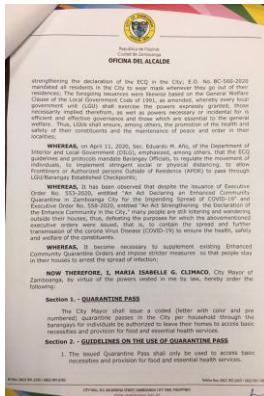
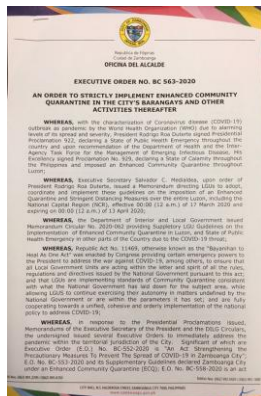


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11. April 7 - Executive Order BC 561-2020 provides for the responsible handling of information of persons related to COVID-19 cases



12. April 15 - Ordinance 532-2020 also known as the "CORONA VIRUS DISEASE - 2019 (COVID-19) EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ZAMBOANGA"

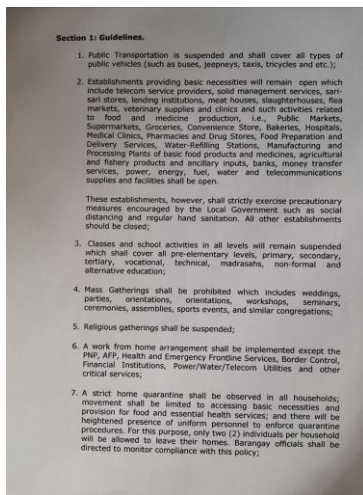




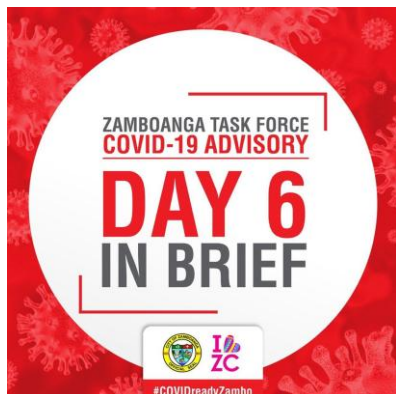
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ACTIONS ON BORDER CONTROL, TRAVEL AND COMMUNITY RESTRICTIONS, AND CASE FINDING

1. Early implementation of enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) within Zamboanga City,



2. Localized lockdowns in areas with confirmed cases of COVID-19





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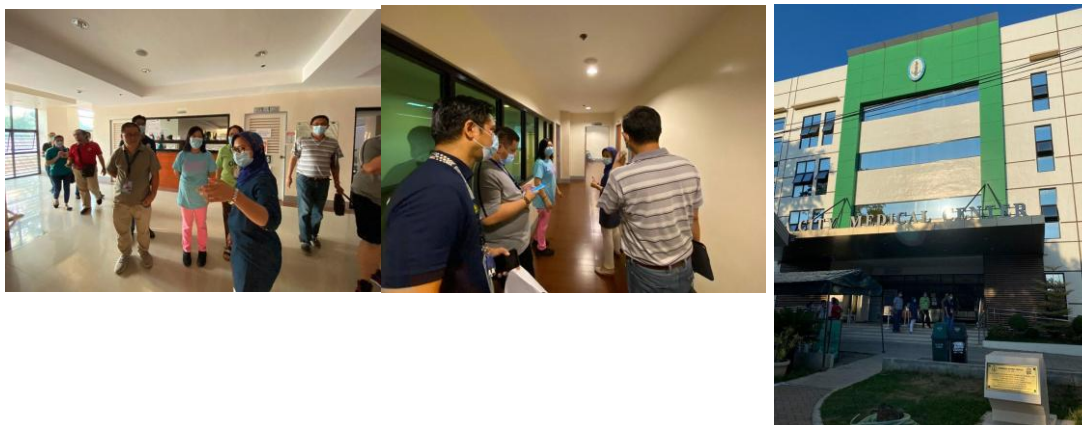
3. Partnership with Ateneo de Zamboanga University to transform its Lantaka Campus as COVID-19 isolation facility



4. MOA partnership with private hospitals to run the Lantaka COVID-19 isolation facility, with PHAPI providing staff from different hospitals



5. Designation of the ZC Medical Center as a COVID 19 Facility under DOH





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6. Partnership and coordination with NGOs, private sector, and academe for donations and production of PPEs



7. Continued operations of essential establishments with strict implementation of social distancing





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8. Activation of economic security cluster led by the Vice Mayor to oversee programs for marginalized labor force in coordination with business sector and national government agencies on labor and budget.



9. Implementation of Quarantine Passes to limit movement and enforce stay-home protocols





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ACTIONS ON SUPPORT TO CAPACITATE FRONTLINES AND PROTECT COMMUNITIES

1. Point-to-point shuttle services for hospital workers, with additional vehicles for specific and exclusive service for designated hospitals



2. Turnover of Response Gears for all 98 barangays composed of megaphones, vests, raincoats, flashlights, whistles, caps, and other supplies and equipment for the implementation of community quarantine in their areas of responsibilities





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3. Distribution of family food packs (FFP) based on validated lists for families who are most vulnerable and below poverty threshold. First wave of distribution covered 98 out of 98 barangays and 173,359 households as of April 23, 2020. Second wave of FFP distribution is being readied.



4. Roll out of mobile palengke (mobile market)





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5. Distribution of agricultural seeds and supplies



6. Turnover of Php 3 million support to ZC Medical Center





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7. Provision of PPEs to public and private hospitals, ZC Medical Center, and Lantaka Isolation facility



8. Turnover of 200 pieces specimen collection swabs and 200 pieces disposable virus sampling tube to City Health Office





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9. Roll out of national government's Social Amelioration Program (SAP)



10. Turnover of Ramadan Family Food Packs to Muslim brethren for Ramadan observance





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ACTIONS ON COMMUNICATION

1. Stay Home series campaign
2. Stay Home. Be Well. Mental health series campaign
3. Regular press conference with Mayor and other key officials
4. Regular public address of Mayor thru FB live platform
5. Do your duty, be honest with your COVID history campaign
6. FAQs on Quarantine Pass
7. Checkpoint algorithm
8. Audio advisories to 98 barangays

ONGOING/DEVELOPING EFFORTS

1. Possible MOA with SPMC in Davao City (COVID testing center) for faster testing of PUIs
2. Procurement of FDA-approved testing kits
3. Procurement of additional PPEs
4. Designation and conversion of local establishment as rest area for medical staff and responders