

CAVITE NEWS

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

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BOC implements tax & duty-exempt importations of PPEs, medical emergency supplies

MANILA CITY, -- The Bureau of Customs (BOC) issues Customs Administrative Order (CAO) 07-2020 that will serve as the guidelines for Tax and Duty - Exempt Importations of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other medical emergency supplies under Section 4(O) of Republic Act 11469 otherwise known as the "Bayanihan To Heal As One Act" in support of our nation's fight against COVID-19. The aim of this CAO is to expedite customs clearance of tax and duty-exempt importations of PPEs and medical goods which are urgently needed by the country's citizens, frontliners, and medical supplies manufacturers in this public health emergency (Turn to p. 2)

DA to rollout more Kadiwa outlets in Metro Manila

QUEZON CITY, - The Department of Agriculture (DA) will set up more 'Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita' outlets to serve more consumers in Metro Manila, providing them fresh farm and fishery products at affordable prices.

Following the success of the Kadiwa outlet launched last week at the DA's Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), along Elliptical Road in Quezon City,

Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar said, "we are pleased that thousands of Quezon City residents benefited from the DA-ATI Kadiwa mobile market."

"We will open more this week to benefit more urban families, and at the same time provide our Luzon farmers and fishers direct market and thus earn for their respective products," he added.

The Kadiwa outlets

sell fresh vegetables and other agri-fishery products that are at least 20 percent cheaper than those sold at MM public markets.

Additional Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita outlets will be set up near Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, and other participating LGUs, by the DA's Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS).

"We have engaged Pateros, Quezon City, Caloocan, Taguig, and



Pasig in the services of Kadiwa on Wheels. The number is growing and in the next weeks,

we expect more orders from other LGUs in metropolitan areas," said DA assistant

To date, at least four LGUs (Las Piñas, Makati, Pasig, Pateros) (Turn to p. 2)

DOF says COVID-19 emergency subsidy largest social protection program in PH history

MANILA, -- The expanded but limited budgetary powers granted by the 18th Congress to President Duterte will let the government realign certain state funds to deliver P200 billion in emergency subsidies to 18 million low-income households that have lost their sources of income amid the pandemic spawned by the highly infectious virus known as

COVID-19--the largest financial aid package ever granted to Filipino households.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has said, "The P200-billion program for distribution in cash and basic needs over the next two months is the largest direct financial assistance program granted by the government to Filipino families in our country's history."

This is in keeping, said Dominguez, with the directive of President Duterte for his Administration to give top and urgent priority to providing a lifeline to Filipino families hit the hardest by the pandemic, which has brought the economy to a virtual standstill.

Enacted on March 24, 2020, Republic Act (RA) No. 11469, or the "Bayanihan to Heal as

One Act," has empowered the President to realign or reallocate savings generated from the 2020 national budget and extended 2019 budget as well as available funds from government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs) for priority programs to combat COVID-19 and bankroll the P200-billion emergency subsidy program.

"We will urgently deliver this emergency subsidy to millions of our fellow Filipinos who live day-to-day on subsistence earnings or 'no-work, no-pay' arrangements," Dominguez said.

He said "the subsidies will be delivered through various national and local programs in the form of food, cash, and other essentials for the next two months, as provided in RA 11469."

Although he

recognized the need for state support to businesses so they could be back on their feet once the pandemic is over, Dominguez said such assistance would have to take the backseat in the meantime in favor of the most urgent priority, which is to help an estimated 18 million Filipino households most affected by the virtual economic standstill resulting from the COVID-19 global crisis.

(Turn to p. 2)

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Asymptomatic cargo drivers, crew exempt from quarantine

MANILA – Drivers and crew of cargo and delivery trucks are not required to undergo a mandatory 14-day home quarantine if they do not show any symptoms of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), a Palace official said on Thursday.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) has approved this guideline to allow the unhindered movement of all cargoes and ensure adequate supply of food.

"Pinapaalala po natin sa mga LGU at local health units: hindi required ang mga drayber at crew ng cargo at delivery truck na mag 14-day quarantine (We are reminding local government units and local health units: Drivers and crew of cargo and delivery trucks are not required to undergo the 14-day quarantine)," he said in a virtual presser.

He said only trucks with at least three persons onboard will be exempted from the quarantine provided

they observe strict social distancing measures.

Nograles said companies should consider adding safe and humane seats or space in the vehicles for their workers.

"Kailangan pong tuloy-tuloy ang daloy ng mga kargamento, exempted po ang mga ito sa ECQ (The movement of cargoes should continue, these workers are exempted from the ECQ)," he said.

He also vowed to address reports that some supermarkets and grocery stores have depleted stocks of basic necessities following delays in the movement of cargoes.

New normal
Meanwhile, he said the implementation of stricter measures to reduce the transmission of the virus such as increasing testing capability, immediate quarantine and isolation would help the country transition to "a new normal".

"We have to devise a way kung saan (where) we can get back to our ordinary lives para matulungan natin ang ekonomiya (so that we can help the economy). Pero

kailangan may mga protective measures tayong gagawin. It's a world-wide problem but tayo as a nation, we are resilient," he said.

He also said once the country successfully contains the virus, the government can focus on preventing the threat of a recession.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda earlier said the month-long quarantine could spare the Philippine economy from possible recession.

"Ang virus ay nagta-thrive through economic activity so kailangan talaga pigilan muna ang ating pagtakbo ng ekonomiya (The virus thrives through economic activity, so we need to temporarily halt economic activity)," he said.

He said while the month-long quarantine is expected to result in economic losses, a mass transmission would cost the economy even more.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said the government is readying additional measures to further buoy the domestic economy from

Tokyo Olympic Games to start on July 23, 2021



ANKARA – The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced Monday that the Olympic Games will be held on July 23-Aug. 8, 2021, while the Paralympic Games between Aug. 24 and Sept. 5, 2021.

"The leaderships of the key parties came together via telephone conference earlier today, joined by IOC President Thomas Bach, Tokyo 2020 President Mori Yoshiro, Tokyo Governor Koike Yuriko and Olympic and

Paralympic Minister Hashimoto Seiko, and agreed on the new schedule," the committee said on its website.

Meanwhile, the committee had postponed on March 24 the Summer Olympic Games for one year as the world grapples with the impact of coronavirus disease (Covid-19).

The coronavirus was first detected in Wuhan, China last December and has spread to at least 177

countries and territories.

The number of confirmed cases worldwide is nearing 738,000, while the death toll has surpassed 35,000, and over 156,500 have recovered so far, according to data compiled by U.S.-based Johns Hopkins University.

Despite the rising number of cases, most who become infected suffer only mild symptoms and recover. (Anadolu)

economic difficulties.

The entire Luzon and some areas in Visayas and Mindanao are currently placed under an enhanced community quarantine which strictly requires people to stay indoors and limit their movement to accessing basic needs.

President Rodrigo Duterte signed the "Bayanihan to Health as One Act" to realign the national budget and tap additional funds to address the national emergency. (By Azer Parrocha/PNA)

It is the blessing of Jehovah that makes one rich, And He adds no pain with it. Proverbs 10:22

DRAW CLOSE TO GOD AND HE WILL DRAW CLOSE TO YOU
James 4:8

With limited kits, Covid-19 testing strategy important: WHO

MANILA — The World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday said given the limited availability of test kits worldwide, it is necessary to implement a strategy on prioritizing who to test for coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-2019) infections.

"This is the challenge not only for the Philippines, even for developed countries which don't have sufficient kits to test everybody," WHO Western Pacific Region Covid-19 Incident Manager, Dr. Socorro Escalante said during a virtual media briefing on Tuesday morning (Manila time).

Escalante said from a clinical perspective, patients with severe symptoms or elderlies with underlying conditions are prioritized for the tests.

"But what's important is test will be effectively used to identify case entry, but on top of that, to trace the contact and then quarantine," she added.

WHO Western Pacific Region Covid-19 Incident Management Support Team Technical Advisor, Dr. Matthew Griffith said the seemingly high proportion of Covid-19 deaths in the country was due to the testing strategy employed by health authorities.

"Many people are seeing the proportion of cases in the Philippines as quite high but that's because the Philippines has taken a testing

strategy where they prioritize severe cases," he said.

"So that's one thing with respect to the high proportion of death in the Philippines but it's in the way the Philippines decided to test. Strategically dictated by available reagents and supplies and travel," he added.

With more sub-national laboratories expected to become operational within the week, Griffith said testing is expected to increase "substantially" in the coming days.

As of 4 p.m. March 31, the Philippines has recorded 2,084 Covid-19 infected persons, 88 deaths, and 49 recoveries. There are 538 new cases.

Strict contact tracing, quarantine measures

WHO Western Pacific Regional Director, Dr. Takeshi Kasai said several Asian countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore, have slowed down the transmission of the deadly disease by employing effective measures such as isolating the infected and quarantining their contacts.

"We have found common tactics in these countries. Those are finding, isolating, and testing case early. Tracing and collating contacts early, putting in place measures to put physical distance and stop transmission," he said.

Kasai clarified that such measures would not eradicate the risks

Global coronavirus cases surpass 800K

ANKARA — The global tally of confirmed coronavirus cases climbed past 800,000 on Tuesday, according to figures compiled by U.S.-based Johns Hopkins University.

The Covid-19 virus, which emerged in Wuhan, China last December, has spread to at least 178 countries and regions around the globe, while a total of 38,714 people have died as recoveries hit 170,325.

Italy, Spain, China and Iran continue to be the most affected countries, while the highest number of coronavirus-related cases are in the US with more than 164,600 cases. The U.S. has confirmed 3,170 deaths due to the virus.

Italy recorded the highest number of fatalities with 11,591

amid the pandemic but these "can give countries valuable time to prepare for large-scale community transmission".

South Korea had been successful in slowing the spread of the disease by doing many tests. Taiwan's measures against the pandemic was considered by experts as a "gold standard" -- fast and early response as well as transparency.

While some Asian countries have been successful in containing the spread of the disease, Kasai said the epidemic is "far from over" in Asia and the Pacific.

"This is going to be a long-term battle. We can't let down our

and over 101,700 positive cases, while Spain has reported 8,189 deaths among confirmed cases of nearly 94,500. China, the ground zero of the virus, follows Spain with 3,309 deaths, while its confirmed cases have neared 82,300.

Meanwhile, the death toll is 2,898 in Iran, with the confirmed number of cases is over 44,600.

Many countries have restricted travel from the most affected areas and implemented lockdowns as the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a pandemic and Europe the new epicenter of the outbreak.

The Johns Hopkins figures far exceed official tallies compiled by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and

guard. We need every country to keep responding according to the local situation. At the same time, we need every country to prepare for large-scale community transmission. If we want every country to respond, we need to do it together," he said.

"And, we also have to find a way to make our societies get running again. Preparing for large scale community transmission must reach every corner to make sure nobody is left behind. For this, we need all local authorities and communities to be fully engaged," he added. (By Ma. Teresa Montemayor/PNA)

Prevention that are updated daily, but only for cases reported by 4:00 p.m. local time (2000GMT) the preceding day.

No new cases in China's worst-hit province

China's Wuhan city and Hubei province saw no new COVID-19 cases on Monday, authorities said on Tuesday.

According to the state-run Xinhua News Agency, China's National Health Commission reported one death due to COVID-19 in Hubei, the capital of which is Wuhan, on Monday.

The health commission also confirmed there were no cases of local transmission anywhere on mainland China on Monday.

In a statement, it said the 48 cases

reported in the country on Monday were all people who had recently come to China from abroad.

The commission said 282 Covid-19 patients were discharged from hospitals over the past 24 hours.

As per the statement, the total number of coronavirus cases on mainland China now stands at 81,518, with the death toll at 3,305 and a total of 76,052 recoveries.

Hong Kong has 682 cases and four deaths so far, Taiwan has 306 cases, and Macau has 39 cases, according to the commission report.

By Monday, a total of 124 Covid-19 patients had recovered in Hong Kong, 39 in Taiwan, and 10 in Macau, it added. (Anadolu)

Russian scientists develop highly accurate test for Covid-19

MOSCOW — The Central Research Institute of Epidemiology of Russia's sanitary w a t c h d o g Rosпотребнадзор has created a highly accurate test to detect the novel coronavirus infection in humans, the governmental agency said on its website on Tuesday.

"The testing kit has successfully passed clinical trials and was registered for use in the Russian Federation on March 25, 2020," Rosпотребнадзор said in a statement.

"The new test meets all modern requirements for accuracy and specificity, allowing not only to detect SARS-CoV-2, but also to differentiate it from other SARS-Cov-type viruses and MERS-Cov," the statement reads.

In late December

2019, Chinese authorities notified the World Health Organization (WHO) about the outbreak of a previously unknown pneumonia in the city of Wuhan, central China.

Since then, cases of the novel coronavirus -- named coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) by the WHO -- have been reported in more than 160 countries, including Russia.

The WHO on March 11 declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic.

As of now, more than 720,000 people have been infected around the world and over 35,000 have died.

Russia has 1,836 cases of the infection, with nine deaths. The Russian government set up an internet hotline to keep the public informed about the coronavirus situation. (TASS)

China's 5-year plan to be crucial on climate change

ANKARA — China's 14th five-year plan (FYP) to go into effect in 2021 will be one of the world's most important documents for global efforts to fight climate change, according to a report released on Tuesday.

While local and global efforts continue to increasingly curb climate change across the world, many are eyeing how China's climate and energy policy moves as the country constitutes the world's largest carbon dioxide (CO2) emitter.

For this reason, the FYP, which will define China's goals from 2021 to 2025, will most likely be one of the world's most important documents on tackling climate change, according to an analysis by the UK-based Carbon Brief.

The study claimed that powerful parties, such as the State Grid Corporation of China and China Electricity Council, were lobbying to get a green light for hundreds of new coal-fired power plants to be



built.

"The push for more coal power also appears at odds with China's climate goals, including a target to peak its CO2 emissions no later than 2030," it said, adding that to meet this goal, low-carbon sources would need to cover any increases in energy demand.

Citing last month's energy data, it said clean energy investment would need to accelerate substantially to meet the country's climate goals which now seem to be far away as CO2 emissions increased in China for the third year in a row in 2019, by around 2 percent.

"Coal is the most carbon-intensive fossil fuel and still accounted

for 57.7 percent of China's energy use in 2019, the data shows. Coal plants, which burn approximately 54 percent of all coal used in the country, provide 52 percent of generating capacity and 66 percent of electricity output -- down from a peak of 81 percent in 2007," the report added.

China's 14th FYP for economic and social development will be finalized and approved in early 2021, followed by more detailed sectoral targets over the next year.

Carbon Brief is a UK-based website covering the latest developments in climate science, climate policy, and energy policy, according to its website. (Anadolu)

Gradual lifting of community quarantine eyed

MANILA – Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said on Wednesday a gradual lifting of enhanced community quarantine will be recommended to the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases to ensure that the new norm of social distancing will be observed.

During the Laging Handa briefing, Lopez said lifting the community quarantine gradually will allow essential businesses and their supply chain to go back to their operations.

"What's important is

to bring back economic activities so that people can return to their jobs while we are still observing the new norm," he said in Filipino.

He added companies should examine their employees who will return to work and ensure that they are not sick.

Lopez said even businesses are cautious about the total lifting of enhanced community that will end by mid-April.

Some economic activities like manufacturing of food,

medicine and medical supplies, and hygiene products such as alcohol and disinfectants, export-oriented businesses, supermarkets and groceries, takeout and food delivery services, among others, maintain their operations during the Luzon-wide quarantine that started March 17.

Lopez said big events such as concerts and theater performances, or those with mass gatherings, will be discouraged even with the lifting of the enhanced community quarantine. (By Kris Crismundo/PNA)

UNICEF scales up support for education amid Covid-19 crisis

MANILA – The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will scale up support in all countries to help children continue their learning while keeping schools safe, as school closures disrupt the education for more than 1.5 billion students worldwide or 87 percent of total enrolled learners.

"Schools in the majority of countries worldwide have closed. It is an unprecedented situation and unless we collectively act now to protect children's education, societies and economies will feel the burden long after we've beaten COVID-19. In the most vulnerable communities, the impact will span generations," said Robert Jenkins, UNICEF Global Chief of

Education, on Monday.

To help curb the disruption to children's education and keep children learning safely, UNICEF has allocated additional funding to accelerate work with governments and partners in more than 145 low- and middle-income countries.

"Based on lessons learned with the school closures in response to Ebola, the longer children stay away from school, the less likely they are to ever return. Giving children alternative ways to learn and also by doing so, rebuild a routine is a critical part of our response," Jenkins added.

UNICEF said the initial global allocation of USD13 million – nearly USD9 million of which is from a contribution made by the Global Partnership

for Education – will be catalytic by supporting national governments and a wide range of education partners in each country to develop plans to enable a rapid, system-wide response.

The initiative, it said, will enable countries to prepare alternative learning programmes in the case of school closures and help schools keep children and their communities safe by providing vital information on handwashing and other hygiene practices.

The funds will also help support children's mental health and prevent stigma and discrimination by encouraging students to avoid stereotypes when talking about the virus. (PR)

Shopee donates 100K masks, 3K test kits for front-liners

MANILA – Shopee, the leading e-commerce platform in Southeast Asia and Taiwan, continues its efforts to contain the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) outbreak in the Philippines with its latest Shopee Bayanihan initiative.

Together with the Office of Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go, Shopee donated 100,000 surgical masks and will soon donate 3,000 FDA-approved Covid-19 test kits to support hospitals and front-liners in their battle against the deadly virus.

The 100,000 masks were distributed to over 40 hospitals across Luzon, including public and private hospitals in Quezon City, Makati, Pasig, Pateros, Taguig, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Parañaque, Muntinlupa, Calocan, and Manila, as well as in key hospitals in the provinces of Laguna, Quezon, Rizal, and Batangas.

"It is important for us to tide through this fight against the COVID-19

outbreak as one community," said Martin Yu, associate director of Shopee Philippines.

"Our medical front-liners and hospitals in the Philippines are working around the clock to contain the outbreak and we applaud them for their hard work and dedication. We are committed to doing what we can to support these medical front-liners, the government, and the wider community during this period," Yu added.

Go, chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, lauded Shopee for its generous donation and for stepping up its social responsibility efforts to fight Covid-19.

"Shopee, as an e-commerce platform, helps support our government's efforts to promote social distancing by ensuring that consumers can get their goods safely and conveniently straight to their own homes. Both the government and the private sector must work together and do what we can to address and

respond to the growing threats of Covid-19," Go said.

Gerard Ho, Singapore Ambassador to the Philippines, also commended Shopee in its efforts to support the Filipino community during Luzon-wide enhanced community quarantine.

"Their donation will help medical front-liners battle the crisis caused by Covid-19. This is a great example of a private enterprise contributing to the community," he added.

Shopee Bayanihan demonstrates its commitment to provide support to those most affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. Shopee will continue to work closely with the government and step up its efforts to support them to prevent, detect and manage Covid-19.

The office of Senator Go helped identify the target recipients and facilitated the distribution of the donated medical supplies to all the 40 hospitals. (PR)

SM DISTRIBUTES PPEs AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO OVER 50 HOSPITALS NATIONWIDE



SM Foundation recently began distributing over P170 million worth of PPEs and medical supplies to over 50 hospitals nationwide to be of service in the fight against COVID-19. These include ICU-grade ventilators; test kits including the local Manila Healthtek kits developed by the UP-NIH team, and FDA-approved PCR kits from Korea; and personal protective equipment for healthcare workers. The Philippine General Hospital, the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM), the Lung Center of the Philippines were among the recipients. Photo shows Medical City Manila medical frontliners in their new PPE outfits.

SM FOUNDATION, NAGHANDOG NG MEDICAL SUPPLIES SA MGA OSPITAL LABAN SA COVID-19



Bilang suporta sa mas pinaigting na laban ng mga Medical Frontliners sa lumalalang pagkalat ng COVID-19 (COVID-19) pandemic, nagsimula nang maghatid ng mga medical supplies sa iba't ibang ospital at medical institutions sa kalakhang Maynila at karatig bayan ang SM Group sa pangunguna ng SM Foundation (SMFI). Mahigit kumulang 20,000 N95 masks, 2,500 gallons ng alcohol, 100 face shields, at 100 sets ng N95 masks at goggles na ang naipamahagi sa 18 ospital at medical institutions na kasalukuyang nangangalaga sa mga pasyenteng tinamaan ng sakit at mga nakakaranan ng sintomas nito.

Ito ay parte ng ipinangakong tulong ng SM Group na naglaan ng Php100 million na tulong para sa paglaban sa sakit na COVID-19. Bago ito, inanunsyo na ng kumpanya ang naunang tulong sa mga tenants nito sa buong bansa sa pamamagitan ng hindi pagsingil ng upa, patuloy na pagpapasahod sa mga empleyado nito, at pamamahagi ng tulong pinansiyal bilang Emergency Financial Assistance sa kanilang mga frontliners na security guards at janitor sa kabuuan ng enhanced community quarantine period.

COURAGE AMIDST FEAR WITHIN THE CRISIS: THE STORIES OF SM CITY BACOOR FRONTLINERS



In these times when most of us would think about ourselves and our own families, there would still be heroes standing out who never wear capes just to show off their courage. Truly, a great crisis would bring chaos, the worst in people, but on the other hand would still bring the best out of humanity. When all of us were scared to go out and be exposed, others are taking risk of their own safety, as well as of their family just to provide all the essentials we need. From food we put on our tables, medicines our families would need, trashes that needs disposal, to establishments and borders that needs safekeeping and hospitals that needs to keep running, these are the stories of some heroes we would frequently meet.

Raymart Cortez is one of the front liners from SM City Bacoor residing at the same city. As one of the members of the Janitorial team who keeps the mall premises clean and sanitized especially now that we need more stocks from the Supermarket, his work is one of the most important. Despite being a breadwinner, he still would take risk and attend to his job despite of the pandemic. "Napakahalaga po sa akin ng trabaho ko ngayon kasi dito ko po kinukuha ang pang araw-araw naming gastusin. May takot ako kasi po kung sakali naman na ako ang mahawaan-huwag naman po sana, ay magugutom ang aking pamilya, magugutom po ang aking mga anak at asawa." said Cortez who despite of his fear would diligently do his duty to protect not just his family but also the community. The same courage is seen with Redel Silva, a front liner and one of the Janitorial team from SM City Bacoor who's also residing at the same city. Despite of his fear for himself and his family, he still attends to his job to protect the community and the shoppers who are seeking food, medical and hygiene supplies in the mall. "Mahalaga sa akin ang trabaho ko lalo na ngayon."

While all of us are worried sanitizing our home, Haidee Mansarate of EXTRAORDINAIRE Manpower Agency, another front liner from SM City Bacoor sees to it that she and her team are at their best in sanitizing the establishment for the safety of other front liners and the shoppers so they won't catch the deadly virus. "Para saakin, isa ito sa pinakaimportanteng trabaho sa panahon ngayon. Ang pagpapanatili ng kalinisan ay magbibigay ng kaligtasan sa lahat ng customers upang maiwasan ang pagkalat at paglaganap ng nakakahawang virus. We have safety measures, safe kami." Said Mansarate who despite them being at risk, is grateful that SM assures their safety as well. "People should listen and follow all the safety precautions. Social distancing is the key. Sa panahon ngayon mas okay ang mag stay sa bahay to keep safe. Covid-19 is a serious crisis we are facing right now. All of us must cooperate.

Amidst the crisis, let us not forget to thank and salute to these hard workers who are keeping us safe and protected in our battle against COVID-19.