

## FNEX Statement regarding Return to Alert Level 3 over Metro Manila January 3, 2022

We support the New Year's Eve announcement made by the government placing Metro Manila under Alert Level 3 starting 3 January until 15 January 2022. The swift response was necessary in view of DOH data regarding the significant increase in the number of new daily confirmed COVID-19 cases. The increase in new daily confirmed cases from Christmas Eve (310 cases) to New Year's Eve (2,961) is nearly tenfold and the government had to take action to try to control the situation.

Granted that this is a setback given that Metro Manila was placed under Alert Level 2 just last November 2021, most establishments can still continue operations although at lower capacities under Alert level 3. We urge not just these establishments but everyone to strictly adhere to protocols that have been established to slow down transmission.

As the government monitors the number of cases, we strongly urge our countrymen to get themselves vaccinated under the ongoing vaccination efforts by the public and private sectors. We also urge fully vaccinated adults to take their booster shots following the recommended timing by the FDA. In the meanwhile, prudence dictates that we strengthen our health care system to prepare for potential future surges.

omv H. Guarin 2022 President

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