

# **POLICY BRIEF**

## **Special Programs Needed for the Elderly and Elderly Households during the Enhanced Community Quarantine**

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## SPECIAL PROGRAMS ARE NEEDED TO HELP THE ELDERLY AND ELDERLY HOUSEHOLDS DURING THIS PERIOD OF ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE (ECQ) IN LUZON

**The elderly**, or those 60 years of age and above and what we term 'senior citizens', are of higher risk of more serious complications and even death from COVID-19.



**80%**

of COVID-19 related deaths occur among senior citizens

**'Elderly households'** or households, which comprise either solely of senior citizens, or which only has a senior citizen or senior citizens and minors (below 15 years old) as members are especially vulnerable

Based on Philippine Statistics Authority data, there could be

**700-800**

**THOUSAND ELDERLY HOUSEHOLDS**

**14%** or about 100 thousand belong to the **poorest 30% of households**

**About one-third** or about 250 thousand belong to the **poorest half of households** in the country



# FOOD AND GROCERY DELIVERY TO IDENTIFIED ELDERLY HOUSEHOLDS

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**Minimize the risk of exposure** of their senior citizen members to COVID-19

**Avoid having a child member of the household** be the one to go out to look for food and groceries.

**Low-income elderly households should be prioritized** in particular and provision of food and groceries should take into account the members who are minors.

**Delivery can be done by barangay officials.** If the only senior citizen in an elderly household with minors is taken ill by COVID-19, this assistance should continue for the minors in the household





## ESTABLISHMENT OF A TELEPHONE HOTLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA-BASED E-GROUPS FOR SENIOR CITIZEN CONCERNS.

This would help **facilitate the implementation of programs for the elderly.**

Municipalities that have an **established Association of Senior Citizens** can serve as a good starting point of coordination between barangay officials and senior citizens.







## ESTABLISHMENT OF EASE OF ACCESS TO MEDICINES FOR THE ELDERLY DURING ECQ

**Pooling the orders of medicine at the purok or even barangay level** and buying them directly from the drugstores and delivering them to the households should be established

To minimize contact among people, **protocols should be established so that pictures of prescriptions would be recognized** instead of actual prescriptions

**A photo of their senior citizen's ID should also be recognized** as the poor rely heavily on the 20% discount in buying their maintenance medicines





## ESTABLISH VIRTUAL ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

The Build, Build, Build program of the Philippine government can be partly reoriented to **expanding and upgrading the digital infrastructure of the country.**

**Digital technologies can also be adopted to address challenges** in not only in the supply chain, but in the retail, delivery services, and educational sectors.





## ASSISTANCE TO THE BEREAVED MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY

In the more unfortunate event that a senior citizen dies from Covid-19, **assistance to the bereaved members of the family** should be in place. In the First District of Bataan, for instance Php10-20 thousand is provided as assistance to the family of the deceased senior citizen even before Covid-19 pandemic.v





# MOBILIZATION OF SENIOR CITIZEN GROUPS TO COORDINATE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Local Social Pension Payout for indigent senior citizens** should already be given in advance.

**National and International NGOs focusing on elderly can be tapped** to also help in coordinating these efforts with various LGUs.

**The Office of Senior Citizen Affairs should be mobilized to help barangay and local officials** in identifying households with elderly members, and especially elderly households as we defined it above.

**YOU CAN FIND THE FULL ARTICLE AT**

<http://ateneo.edu/sites/default/files/downloadable-files/Policy%20Brief%202020-02.pdf>

