



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Office of the Court Administrator
Manila

OCA CIRCULAR NO. 120 - 2021

TO: ALL JUSTICES OF THE APPELLATE COLLEGIATE COURTS,
JUDGES OF THE SECOND AND FIRST LEVEL COURTS,
COURT PERSONNEL THEREOF, AND COURT USERS

RE: ADDENDUM TO OCA CIRCULAR NO. 119-2021

In view of the re-imposition of Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) in the National Capital Region (NCR) beginning 8 September 2021, and in furtherance to the provisions of OCA Circular No. 119-2021, dated 7 September 2021, upon instructions of Chief Justice Alexander G. Gesmundo, **ALL courts in the NCR**, except the Supreme Court, shall remain physically closed to court users. However, the said courts, together with all courts in other areas under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), with or without heightened restrictions, and MECQ, which are likewise physically closed to court users, shall continue to operate and conduct videoconferencing hearings on **ALL matters**, whether urgent or not, as far as practicable, so as not to delay the trial of cases and court processes.

For areas under General Community Quarantine (GCQ), with or without heightened restrictions, and Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ), where courts are physically open, judges are encouraged to maximize videoconferencing hearings and refrain from requiring parties to appear in-court, except in cases or matters which require the personal appearance of a party or witness.

All prior issuances not inconsistent herewith shall remain valid and in effect.

For the guidance and compliance of all concerned.

8 September 2021


JOSE MIDAS P. MARQUEZ
Court Administrator