



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**DUQUE ORDERS STRICT CHECK ON INCOMING TRAVELERS AMID REPORTS
OF CHINA MYSTERIOUS DISEASE**

Press Release/5 Jan 2020

The Department of Health today assured the public that the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) is on alert and is closely watching all seaports and airports in response to reports of a mysterious disease from China.

Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III instructed the BOQ to intensify the checking of all incoming travelers especially those manifesting fever or signs of respiratory infection.

It has been reported lately that an outbreak of a mysterious illness has affected 44 individuals in China. According to reports, the said disease is similar to a "viral pneumonia of unknown origin".

"I urge the public, especially those with history of travel from China, to seek immediate medical consult if experiencing any flu-like symptoms" Duque said.

"Let us also embrace healthy lifestyles, practice proper hand hygiene, and observe cough etiquette to prevent transmission of respiratory infections" the Health Chief concluded.