

DATELINE PHILIPPINES

GMA leads A(H1N1) awareness campaign



President Arroyo shows school children the proper way to wash their hands to avoid the A(H1N1) virus during her visit to the Geronimo Santiago Elementary School in San Miguel, Manila. Philstar.com by Willy Perez

AIMED to create awareness campaign against AH1N1 virus, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo last May 25 demonstrated the proper way of hand washing as part of the personal preventive measures against the deadly virus.

The President, together with Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus and some local officials, led the A(H1N1) awareness campaign at the Geronimo Santiago Elementary School in San Miguel district near Malacañang.

"Ang dahilan kung bakit nagpa-practice tayo na maghugas ng kamay kasi ang no. 1 na pag-proteksyon sa ating sarili kontra sa mga sakit, gaya ng flu na nakakahawa, ay malinis parati ang kamay (The reason why we are practicing handwashing is because the no. 1 protection against sickness, like the contagious flu, is to have clean hands always)," the President said.

The Chief Executive demonstrated the proper way of washing hands through the use of soap and water.

While washing hands, the President, together with some pupils, sang the *Happy Birthday* song twice as advised by the Department of Health.

"Umawit tayo ng *Happy Birthday* dalawang beses para sa ganun ay matalag tayong maghugas ng kamay (Let us sing *Happy Birthday* song two times to thoroughly wash our hands)," she said.

Likewise, the President distributed some vitamins and medicines to boost the children's immune system against diseases.

The campaign came a day after the DOH confirmed two A(H1N1) cases in the country.

So far, a total 113 individuals are being monitored by the DOH, including a 10-year old girl who traveled to the US and Canada and a 50-year-old woman from Chicago were tested positive for the dreaded virus.

Based on World Health Organization (WHO) report, a total of 86 people—75 in Mexico, nine in the US, and one each in Canada and Costa Rica were killed due to the dreaded A(H1N1) virus. (PNA)

50 wedding guests sought for H1N1 flu

by SHEILA CRISOSTOMO
Philstar.com

THE Department of Health (DOH) is currently searching for 50 people who were guests at a wedding in Zambales two weeks ago that two Taiwanese nationals infected with Influenza A(H1N1) also attended.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said they found out that the Taiwanese mother and

her five-year-old daughter did not attend a yoga conference in the Philippines from May 16 to 20, contrary to early stories that came out in Taiwanese newspapers.

The two patients arrived in the Philippines on May 15 and flew back to Taipei on May 20. Duque said the DOH is coordinating with

concerned local government units to track down the guests and advised them to observe self-quarantine.

And while it is not yet known how the patients contracted the virus, Duque said it is likely that the mother brought it in but the DOH does not want to speculate. ■

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Summer 2009

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