Pinoys aboard cruise ship positive for virus now 35

OFW is 61st confirmed HK case

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EIGHT more Filipinos aboard the cruise ship MV Diamond Princess quarantined in Yokohama, Japan have tested positive for the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), bringing the total number of Filipinos affected with the virus in the ship to 35, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

"I can confirm that as of today, eight more have been infected and taken by Japanese health authorities to their quarantine facilities," DFA Undersecretary Brigido Dulay said. Dulay said the new cases were asymptomatic, meaning they did not exhibit the symptoms of the virus.

He said the affected Filipinos were being taken care of by Japanese health authorities and the vessel owners.

Dulay said the Philippine embassy in Tokyo is in touch with the Filipinos as well as the Japanese Health Ministry.

"They are okay and healthy, though a few are already exhibiting some symptoms," he said.

"Our embassy in Tokyo is sitting down with the president of Princess Cruises," he added, referring to the owner of the Diamond Princess.

A Filipina household worker in Hong Kong, meanwhile, tested positive for the virus, the consulate general in the former British colony said yesterday, adding she is the 61st confirmed case in HK.

The consulate said it has sent a team to the hospital where the 32-year-old Filipino is confined to check on her condition. It added the consulate is ready to provide her the necessary assistance.

Local health authorities said they are now working to trace all those who have had contact with the Filipina.

Consul General Raly Tejada earlier said seven Filipinos have been put on quarantine for possible exposure to the virus that has killed more than 1,800, majority in mainland China.

Only last Monday, 16 more Pinoys aboard the ship tested positive for the virus, raising the number of affected Filipinos in the ship to 27.

The Department of Health earlier said they are ironing out the details of the evacuation of the Filipino crew members and passengers of the cruise ship.

Aboard the ship are about 3,700 Pinsos.