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Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim

OUA MEMO 00-0321-0096
MEMORANDUM
10 March 2021

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Schools Division Superintendent
Schools Division of Bulacan

For: **Leonor Magtolis Briones**
Secretary

ATTN: **Atty. Revsee A. Escobedo**
Undersecretary for Field Operations, *Palarong Pambansa*
Secretariat and DEACO

Tolentino G. Aquino
Regional Director, Region I

Wilfredo E. Cabral
Regional Director, Region IV-A

Subject: **POSITION ON THE USE OF SCHOOL CLINICS AND
OTHER AREAS IN THE SCHOOL AS
VACCINATION CENTERS**

The Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA) relays the following position regarding the request of Vigan City Mayor Juan Carlo Medina to utilize schools within their jurisdiction as vaccination points of COVID-19 AZD1222 for their age-qualified population.

Quoting from the attached **Aide Memoire on the role of DepEd in the implementation of the Philippine National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 vaccines**, specifically:

Coordination for the Use of School Clinics and Other Identified Areas in the School Premises:

On the use of school clinics and/or other identified areas in the school (e.g., covered courts, makeshift tents set up in open areas, multipurpose halls/rooms, large offices in the school) as vaccination centers implementing units based on the Plan, **the same process that applies on the use of schools as quarantine or isolation facilities shall be retained.**



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Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA)

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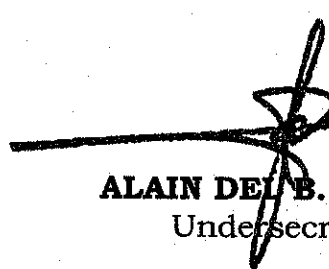
- a. With existing policy delegating the assessment, approval, and coordination on the use of schools as quarantine or isolation facilities to Regional Directors, the same shall be maintained especially as the existing system highlights close coordination between DepEd, the LGU, and health authorities. The same Terms and Conditions (TAC) to be entered into by DepEd and LGUs, as attached to OM-Osec-2020-004 (Guidance to Regional Directors for Action on Requests by Local Government Units to Use DepEd Schools and Engage DepEd Personnel in Activities Related to COVID-19) shall be adopted by field offices for the use of schools for vaccination purposes. For local governments with whom there are already existing TAC or memoranda of agreement (MOA), the use of schools as vaccination sites may be treated as an addendum to the TAC/MOA.
- b. This high level of coordination would facilitate the selection of schools in strategic locations and with sufficient capacity and human resources especially in referring Adverse Event Following Immunization, Adverse Event of Special Interest cases. This is consistent with the NDVP which stipulates that LGUs shall ensure that all implementing units adhere to the protocols required for an implementing unit/vaccination post/site.
- c. With the reality that a number of schools already serve as quarantine or isolation facilities, health and LGU authorities must select between using schools for quarantine/isolation or for vaccination purposes. The simultaneous use of schools for both purposes is not recommended.
- d. Consistent with the pronouncement of the President, the use of schools for vaccination activities shall be the last resort. This is also consistent with the spirit of RA 10821 which instructs that schools can only be used as an evacuation center as a last resort to allow for learning continuity and the displacement of learners and personnel from schools in times of emergencies, and which likewise guided the use of schools for quarantine/isolation facilities.
- e. DepEd's position on the limited use of schools for vaccination is also informed by plans for the resumption of face-to-face and school-based engagements. Schools in areas which are candidates for the resumption of feasible limited face-to-face learning shall explicitly be excluded as possible vaccination sites.
- f. The safety of the school personnel reporting onsite in schools and the uninterrupted operations of the school for learning continuity shall be the top most consideration.

For the Secretary's information.



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ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA
Undersecretary

