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Schools Division Superintendent
Schools Division of Bulacan

DepEd Task Force COVID-19
MEMORANDUM No. 566
25 November 2021

For: **Leonor Magtolis Briones**
Secretary

Subject: **UPDATED RECOMMENDATIONS ON DEPED'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL VACCINATION DAYS**

This is about **DepEd Task Force COVID-19 (DTFC) Memorandum No. 556** titled *[Advance Information and Request for Approval] DepEd's Participation in the National Vaccination Days (Annex A)*, providing information and recommendations on the upcoming National Vaccination Days (NVD), based on the series of meetings attended by the Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health Division (BLSS-SHD), the last of which was 18 November 2021. This Memorandum has been submitted to the Office of the Secretary last week.

In the said Memorandum, the DTFC has reported that an Executive Order and/or a Department Circular from the Department of Health (DOH) is/are expected to be issued to provide further guidance on the activity, as initially announced in the preparatory meetings. Instead, the issuance came as **Presidential Proclamation No. 1253** titled *Declaring 29 November to 01 December 2021 as Bayanihan, Bakunahan National Covid-19 Vaccination Days¹*.

Recognizing that the Secretary has already signed DepEd Memorandum No. 082, s. 2021 titled *Bayanihan, Bakunahan National COVID-19 Vaccination Days (Annex B)*, in accordance with Presidential Proclamation No. 1253, the DTFC updates its recommendations to the Secretary, particularly on the use of schools as vaccination sites and on the participation of DepEd personnel as volunteers in local vaccination teams.² Upon approval of the Secretary, the offices and personnel concerned shall be expected to comply with the following:

¹ A copy of the Presidential Proclamation is an enclosure to DM 82, s. 2021.

² These updated recommendations from the DTFC may also serve as DepEd's response to the letter of the DOH Secretary to the Honorable Secretary of Education, requesting DepEd's support to the NVD. Although dated 16 November 2021, the letter was emailed to the Office of the Secretary only in the afternoon of 25 November 2021.

Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA)

[Administrative Service (AS), Information and Communications Technology Service (ICTS), Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRMMS), Bureau of Learner Support Services (BLSS), Baguio Teachers Camp (BTC), Central Security & Safety Office (CSSO)]

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1. **On the use of schools as vaccination sites**

The DTFC recommends that the existing processes and requirements for the use of schools as vaccination sites be loosened up to ensure that more schools qualified to serve as vaccination sites can be accommodated.

a. DepEd shall highly support the NVD and **enjoin all schools that are qualified to be used as vaccination sites to cooperate and coordinate with their respective LGUs** regarding the said activity.

b. Existing arrangements on the use of schools as vaccination sites (i.e., LGU-led coordination) shall be maximized. However, for the specific purpose of participating in the NVD, requests for the use of schools as vaccination sites shall be **approved by the Schools Division Superintendent instead of the Regional Director**. All other requirements as stipulated in DM 28, s. 2021 (Item No. 22, pp. 8-9) shall be retained.

c. Schools and offices that were previously used as vaccination sites are highly encouraged to be reopened for the NVD.

2. **On the voluntary participation of DepEd personnel (teaching, school health, and other non-teaching personnel) as members of vaccination teams.**

The DTFC recommends that the voluntary participation of personnel be actively encouraged.

a. In compliance with Presidential Proclamation No. 1253 which provides that "all health workers, including doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, dentists, and medical technologists are called upon to extend their full support and cooperation in providing COVID-19 vaccination during the three-day campaign," all qualified DepEd teaching and non-teaching personnel, especially school health personnel, are **invited and highly encouraged to volunteer in their respective local vaccination teams** (i.e., give informed consent to provide extension services).

This is consistent with IATF Resolution No. 149, s. 2021 which provides that "in support of the whole-of-nation and whole-of-society approach to COVID-19 vaccination, the IATF fully supports the National Vaccination Days or the "Bayanihan, Bakunahan" from November 29 to December 1, 2021. All member agencies are directed to extend full support for this simultaneous vaccination rollout. In furtherance thereto, all government offices, agencies, and instrumentalities, and local government units are encouraged to assign and/or allow all of their respective healthcare workers to participate in this event."



- b. The **National COVID-19 Vaccination Operations Center (NVOC) Advisory No. 102** titled *Providing Guidance in the Deployment of Medical, Nursing and Allied Professionals, Teachers and Data Professionals as Volunteers for the National COVID-19 Vaccination Days*, which is attached as Annex A to DTFC Memorandum No. 556, provides the complete list of identified professionals that match available volunteer roles.


A summary of roles relevant to DepEd personnel is shown below:

Available Volunteer Opportunity/Role	Identified Personnel/Professionals
Vaccination team	
Health screener	Medical doctors, trained nurses
Vaccinators	Medical doctors, nurses, trained dentists
Post-vaccination monitors	Trained first responders, paramedics, nurses and allied health professionals
Health educators	Any health professional, teachers, any trained individual
Personnel assigned in the registration area	Any volunteer
Data management team	
Encoders	Teachers, school personnel, government employees, any willing and trained volunteer
Talliers/data	Consolidators teachers, any trained data personnel

- c. Attention is invited to the steps in registering as volunteers on the second page of NVOC Advisory No. 102 (shown below):

For volunteers, here are the steps in registering:

1. Register in this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3fxytrjm>, or this QR Code:


2. Fill-out the data fields in the NVVR. You are given the option to choose which LGU you are willing to be assigned to.
3. After submitting the completed form, await for the call or message of the LGU or Center for Health Development. Your information and contact details will be forwarded to the LGUs where you are willing to be assigned.
4. If after five (5) days or before November 22, you have not been contacted, kindly call the DOH OpCen Hotline: (8) 711-1001 or (8) 711-1002. The team shall facilitate coordination and link you to the appropriate point person.



Those who will register as volunteers will be contacted for the next steps, including necessary training and orientation activities.

Given the number of days left before the activity, all personnel interested to volunteer are advised to already coordinate directly with their respective LGUs where they intend to volunteer.

- d. All personnel who have volunteered/have been volunteering in local vaccination activities are highly encouraged to volunteer again/continue volunteering for the NVD.
- e. In light of Presidential Proclamation No. 1253, IATF Resolution No. 149, and NVOC Advisory No. 102, it is reiterated that **personnel who volunteer to become members of their local vaccination teams during the NVD shall not be considered absent from their work in DepEd.** Instead, they shall be **provided by their respective offices with the necessary authority to participate** in the NVD. Personnel shall also be entitled to claim reimbursements for travel and other incidental expenses related to their volunteering for the NVD, chargeable against available funds in their respective offices, provided that the same is covered by the authority granted to them to go on official business for the NVD.
- f. Existing guidelines on the provision of service credits (e.g., for those authorized to go on official business on a non-working holiday) shall be applied. Offices concerned at the Central Office such as the Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations (OUFO) and Bureau of Human Resource and Organizational Development (BHROD) are requested to explore ways and provide guidance, as may be needed, on how to encourage personnel to volunteer and to support those who will register, in line with national issuances. The DTFC shall also raise to NVOC recommendations to incentivize volunteers, including the issuance of Certificate of Participation, which may be useful for their license renewal.
- g. DepEd offices and schools are enjoined to help disseminate information about the volunteer opportunities for the NVD.

3. On demand generation and other promotion activities to support the NVD

The DTFC recommends that DepEd, through the Public Affairs Service (PAS) as lead-coordinator³, shall actively support promotion activities related to the NVD, in line with the Vacc2School Campaign.

Promotion activities will include the active use of the DepEd Philippines Facebook page as well as the regional, division, and school pages.

³ PAS attended the meeting for the NVD, particularly joining the discussions of the committee for demand generation and operations



4. On the monitoring of DepEd's participation in the NVD

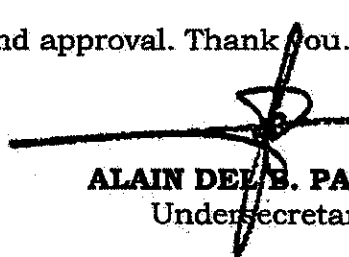
The DTFC recommends that COVID-19 Response/Vaccination Focals monitor and report on DepEd's participation in the NVD, specifically on the number of schools used as vaccination sites and number of personnel who will serve as volunteers. A separate DTFC memorandum will be issued for this purpose.

5. Other concerns

- a. In the same manner that personnel who will be vaccinated during the NVD will not be considered absent from their work, and that learners who will be vaccinated during the same period shall be excused from attending classes, personnel who are parents/guardians of DepEd learners who will accompany their children for pediatric vaccination during the NVD, shall likewise not be considered absent from their work.
- b. Alternative working arrangements may be explored for personnel of schools that will be used as vaccination sites during the NVD.

For queries regarding this concern, please contact the DTFC Secretariat, BLSS-SHD, through (02) 8632 9935 or email at medical.nursing@deped.gov.ph.

For the Secretary's consideration and approval. Thank you.


ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA
Undersecretary



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