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Republika ng Pilipinas  
**Kagawaran ng Edukasyon**  
Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim

DepEd Task Force COVID-19  
**MEMORANDUM No. 557**  
20 November 2021

DepEd  
NOV 20 2021  
4:10 PM

For: **Leonor Magtolis Briones**  
Secretary

Subject: **STRONG SUPPORT FOR PEDIATRIC VACCINATION  
AGAINST COVID-19**

The DepEd Task Force COVID-19 (DTFC), through its vaccination program representatives, acknowledges the ongoing participation of field offices and personnel in the roll-out of vaccination of the pediatric population (ages 12-17 years old) against COVID-19, in line with the following issuances of the Department of Health (DOH):

Issuance	Title	Date of Issuance
DC 2021-0464	Interim Operational Guidelines on the COVID-19 Vaccination of the Pediatric Population Ages 12-17 Years Old with Comorbidities	14 October 2021
DC 2021-0464-A	Amendment to Department Circular 2021-0464 entitled "Interim Operational Guidelines on the COVID-19 Vaccination of the Pediatric Population Ages 12-17 Years Old with Comorbidities"	25 October 2021
DC 2021-0483	Interim Operational Guidelines on the COVID-19 Vaccination of the Rest of the Pediatric Population Ages 12-17 Years Old	28 October 2021

The DTFC further acknowledges that the said participation is currently guided by DepEd's existing issuances, particularly **DepEd Memorandum No. 28, s. 2021** (*Comprehensive Guidance on the Participation of the Department of Education in the Implementation of the Philippine National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccines*), which provides, among others, that DepEd shall:

- ensure that any engagement is aligned with national issuances;
- primarily participate in demand generation and communication activities across all governance levels;

**Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA)**

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

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- maximize the existing job roles of personnel to support the vaccination program, allow the voluntary participation for tasks that are beyond the scope of their work (as long as voluntary participation does not prejudice their work in DepEd), and ensure provision of necessary support to volunteers; and
- allow the use of schools as vaccination sites (as last resort), following existing policy.

The DTFC **recommends that DepEd takes a more pro-active stance** in participating in the pediatric vaccination. This will contribute to the national government's target of vaccinating at least 80% of this population by December 2021. This is in recognition of **DepEd-DOH Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2021-01** (*Operational Guidelines on the Implementation of Limited Face-To-Face Learning Modality*), which states, "COVID-19 vaccination shall remain an essential strategy to complement the existing Prevention, Detection, Isolation, Treatment, and Reintegration (PDITR) strategies, which is the cornerstone of the country's response to prevent further transmission."

In particular, the DTFC respectfully requests that the following action points be approved by the Secretary, for compliance by concerned field offices and personnel.

**1. On institutional arrangements with LGUs**

Consistent with **DTFC Memorandum No. 441** (*Instructions to the Field Regarding the Operationalization of DM 28, s. 2021 Particularly on the Vaccination of DepEd Teaching and Non-Teaching Personnel*), all field offices and schools are enjoined to cooperate with their respective LGUs for the vaccination of the eligible pediatric population within their jurisdictions. Institutional arrangements shall be established, and existing ones, strengthened and expanded to cover pediatric vaccination. As practiced, such arrangements may cover the use of schools as vaccination sites and the voluntary participation of personnel in vaccination teams.

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

a. Similar to the DTFC's recommendation in DTFC Memorandum No. 556 (*[Advance Information and Request for Approval] DepEd's Participation in the National Vaccination Days*), DTFC also 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.

b. DepEd shall highly support pediatric vaccination 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.

c. 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 pediatric vaccination, requests 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.

- d. Schools and offices that were previously used as vaccination sites are highly encouraged to be reopened for pediatric vaccination.
3. **On the voluntary participation of DepEd personnel (teaching, school health, and other non-teaching personnel) as members of vaccination teams**
  - a. The DTFC recommends to ramp up efforts to enjoin more health and other personnel to volunteer for the vaccination of the pediatric population.
  - b. All personnel who have volunteered/have been volunteering in local vaccination activities are highly encouraged to volunteer again/continue volunteering for pediatric vaccination.
  - c. The offices, officials, and personnel concerned are reminded to ensure that volunteering personnel are provided with the support enumerated in DM 28, s. 2021 (Item No. 21, pp. 7-8).
4. DepEd shall actively support promotion activities related to pediatric vaccination, in line with the Vacc2School Campaign.

The DTFC supports the decision of the Composite Team in charge of the pilot implementation of face-to-face classes to include learner's vaccination status in the Learner Information System. This will efficiently facilitate the collection of necessary data for reporting in the future.

Attached is DOH DC 2021-0483 for ready reference (**Annex A**).

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

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

  
**ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA**

Undersecretary  
Chairperson, DepEd Task Force COVID-19



cc: **Revsee A. Escobedo**  
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