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Republika ng Pilipinas
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DepEd-SDO of Bulacan Office of the SDS

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DepEd Task Force COVID-19
MEMORANDUM No. 606
 04 February 2022

For: **Leonor Magtolis Briones**
 Secretary

Subject: **REITERATION OF STRONG SUPPORT FOR PEDIATRIC VACCINATION AGAINST COVID-19 (AGES 5-11)**

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The Secretary earlier approved **DepEd Task Force COVID-19 (DTFC) Memorandum No. 557** titled *Strong Support for Pediatric Vaccination Against COVID-19*, which, in line with the issuances of the DOH, provides that DepEd shall **take a more pro-active stance** for pediatric vaccination (ages 12-17 years old) than the minimum guidelines stipulated in previous issuances¹ (**Annex A**).

The DTFC, through its vaccination program representatives, continues to underscore the importance of pediatric vaccination not only as an effective strategy to eventually put an end to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also as an essential component of the ongoing efforts to accelerate the safe resumption of the face-to-face learning modality. The sooner that the spread of the virus is contained, particularly through mass vaccination, the sooner that society can go back to normal, and the more schools can resume face-to-face learning modalities.

In this regard, the DTFC recommends that **the same strong support be extended for the vaccination of the pediatric population aged 5-11** which is set to roll-out this February 2022. Upon the approval of the Secretary, the provisions of DTFC Memorandum No. 557 enumerated in Annex A shall be observed by concerned governance levels for the pediatric vaccination (aged 5-11).

For proper guidance, attached is **Department of Health Memorandum No. 2022-0041** titled *Interim Guidelines on the Management and Administration of Tozinameran COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (nucleoside-modified) [Cominarty] Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine to Pediatric Population Ages 5-11 Years Old* (**Annex B**).

¹ Such as 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*), and 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*)



Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA)

[Administrative Service (AS), Information and Communications Technology Service (ICT), 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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The following clarifications are also recommended/reiterated:

1. As defined in **DTFC Memorandum No. 566**², the “**voluntary participation**” of DepEd personnel in the government’s vaccination drive—especially the school health personnel who volunteer as members of the local vaccination teams—shall be understood as their “**informed consent to provide extension services.**” This is to correct any possible misinterpretation that *voluntary* participation means that their participation shall be done only outside office hours (e.g., weekends) or that they shall not be considered on official business when *volunteering* in the vaccination drive.
2. Consistent with **DepEd Memorandum No. 082, s. 2021**³, **DTFC Memorandum No. 566**, and **DTFC Memorandum No. 581**⁴:
 - a. All learners who will be vaccinated during school days shall be considered excused from attending classes, provided that they present proof of vaccination to their teachers.
 - b. Personnel who are parents/guardians of DepEd learners who will accompany their children for pediatric vaccination during workdays shall likewise not be considered absent from their work.
 - c. Alternative working arrangements may be explored for personnel of schools that will be used as pediatric vaccination sites.
3. All DepEd personnel, especially the concerned school health personnel (COVID-19 Response/Vaccination Focals, Vacc2School Champions) and the Information Officers, are enjoined to continue to initiate and support demand generation and information dissemination activities to encourage DepEd’s stakeholders to have learners aged 5-11 to get vaccinated.⁵
4. Pediatric vaccination data shall be generated through the Learner Information System (LIS), as decided upon by the Composite Team in charge of the pilot implementation of face-to-face classes.

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
Chairperson, DepEd Task Force COVID-19



cc: **Revsae A. Escobedo**
Undersecretary for Field Operations, Employee Welfare, Personnel and DEACO
Wilfredo E. Cabral
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Director IV, Public Affairs Service
Regional Directors and BARMM Education Minister
Schools Division Superintendents

² Updated Recommendations on DepEd’s Participation in the National Vaccination Days

³ Bayanihan, Bakunahan National COVID-19 Vaccination Days

⁴ Continued Support and Participation in the Second and Succeeding Rounds of the National Vaccination Days

⁵ These may include participating in and promoting DOH’s webinars, and developing/creating information materials based on these webinars, sharing DOH’s infographics, as well as hosting their own information drives to reach out to as many parents and community members as possible. For reference, the DTFC issued Memorandum No. 604 titled *Resbakuna Kids Orientation on Pediatric Vaccination for Children Aged 5-11* to enjoin participation of all DepEd personnel and stakeholders in the said virtual activity

Annex A

**More “Pro-Active” Provisions of DTFC Memorandum No. 557
Compared to Previous Issuances**

Previous Issuances	DTFC Memorandum No. 557
<p>DTFC Memorandum No. 441 - All field offices and schools are enjoined to cooperate with their respective LGUs for the vaccination of the eligible pediatric population within their jurisdictions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)
<p>DM 28 s. 2021 - Allow the use of schools as vaccination sites (as last resort), following existing policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing processes and requirements for the use of schools as vaccination sites shall be loosened up to ensure that more schools qualified to serve as vaccination sites can be accommodated • 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 • Existing arrangements on the use of schools as vaccination sites 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 shall be retained
<p>DM 28 s. 2021 - 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts shall be ramped up to enjoin more health and other personnel to volunteer for the vaccination of the pediatric population • All personnel who have volunteered/have been volunteering in local vaccination activities are highly encouraged to volunteer again/continue volunteering for pediatric vaccination • 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)
<p>DM 28 s. 2021 - Primarily participate in demand generation and communication activities across all governance levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DepEd shall actively support promotion activities related to pediatric vaccination, in line with the Vacc2School Campaign



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