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

**DepEd Task Force COVID-19**  
**MEMORANDUM No. 372**  
19 April 2021

For: **Secretary LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES**  
**Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries**  
**Bureau and Service Directors**  
**Regional Directors and BARMM Education Minister**  
**Schools Division Superintendents**  
**School Heads**

Subject: **GUIDANCE ON COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR**  
**DEPED TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING**  
**PERSONNEL**

Health authorities, including the Department of Health (DOH), have repeatedly emphasized that COVID-19 vaccination is one of the major strategies to complement the existing measures and practices to mitigate the spread and reduce morbidity and mortality due to coronavirus infection.

The government's directions pertaining to COVID-19 vaccination are laid out in the **Philippine National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) for COVID-19 Vaccines** and further elaborated in DOH issuances.

**DepEd personnel have three levels of participation** in the ongoing implementation of the NDVP:

1. **AS RECIPIENTS OR BENEFICIARIES** - Personal level or as qualified recipients of the vaccine
2. **AS MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING BODIES IN THE VACCINATION PLAN:**
  - a. **Task Group and Sub-Task Groups of the Immunization Program** – Designated DepEd representatives are found in Annex 1.
  - b. **Vaccination Team** – As volunteer members of their respective local vaccination teams through the practice of their professions and



**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)]*





relevant skills sets (e.g., as medical professionals, as educators, or as guidance counselors.)

**c. Vaccination Operations Center (VOC)** – As members of the Planning, Campaign Management, and Technical Team of the VOC at the various levels of governance

**3. AS CHAMPIONS FOR ADVOCACY ON VACCINATION** – The Public Affairs Service (PAS) is working with the DOH on this initiative. A DepEd Communications Plan for increasing awareness and rallying DepEd personnel to be champions for vaccination, and encouraging everyone be informed and get vaccinated is in the works. A separate memo shall be issued on this program.

Consistent with the pronouncements of Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones in previous meetings and activities related to the government's vaccination program, the Department shall release an issuance providing comprehensive guidance to the field regarding all these three levels of participation expected of DepEd and its personnel.

#### **As Recipients or Beneficiaries**

In support of the forthcoming comprehensive DepEd issuances, and recognizing that local governments have commenced the implementation of their respective micro-plans in line with the NDVP, the DepEd Task Force COVID-19 (DTFC), through the Department's representatives in the Task Group Immunization Program, issues this guidance to the field particularly on the first level of their participation in NDVP: **As qualified recipients of the vaccine.**

**The vaccination remains to be the personal and voluntary decision of every personnel.**

In this light, the DTFC enjoins everyone to be proactive in learning about the vaccine and the vaccination program, and to make an informed choice about the matter.

**1. DepEd personnel who wish to be vaccinated are advised to register for free vaccination through their respective local government units (LGUs.)**

Per DOH DM 2021-0157, LGUs are the lead in the master listing of the respective general population, consistent with their roles in profiling the health status of their constituents as stipulated in the Universal Health Care Act.

One way the LGUs do this master listing is through the open call to eligible populations through the use of appropriate media platforms and house-to-house visits by community health workers, consistent with minimum public health standards.





DOH DM 2021-0157 further provides that all Filipinos shall indicate their interest to be vaccinated through their LGUs based on the address of their permanent or current residence or workplace.

In this regard, DepEd personnel who wish to be vaccinated are reminded to keep themselves updated about the announcements and promptly respond to calls of their respective LGUs for both registration and the actual vaccination whenever they are eligible.

**2. DepEd personnel are advised to take note of which priority population group they belong to and to register accordingly.**

**As of April 15, 2021, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases has identified “frontline personnel in basic education and higher education institutions and agencies” as part of Priority Group A4** (Annex 2 - IATF Resolution No. 110, s. 2021), approving the appeal of Secretary Briones. This inclusion of the basic education front liners in the A4 priority category means that the vaccine prioritization for education frontliners has been adjusted from B1 to A4.

<b>Phase 1 - Priority Eligible A</b>	
<b>A1</b>	Frontline workers in health facilities both national and local, private and public, health professionals and non-professionals like students in health and allied professions courses with clinical responsibilities, nursing aides, janitors, barangay health workers, etc.
<b>A2</b>	Senior citizens aged 60 years old and above
<b>A3</b>	Adults with comorbidities not otherwise included in the preceding categories
<b>A4</b>	Frontline personnel in essential sectors both in public and private sectors, <b>including education frontliners</b> and uniformed personnel, and those in working sectors identified by the IATF that are directly client facing and cannot dutifully meet minimum public health standards
<b>A5</b>	Poor population based on the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) not otherwise included in the preceding categories

In this light, **DepEd frontline personnel may register for vaccination under the A4 category**, subject to the review and approval of their respective LGUs registration process.





In addition, personnel are reminded that **if they fit the criteria for higher Priority Groups (A1 to A3), they do need not to wait for roll-out for the later priority groups** where they could also possibly belong (A4 and lower.)

- a. **DepEd school health personnel who belong to Priority Group A1** (NTF COVID-19 National VOC Advisory No. 20, s. 2021.) Those who have not had their vaccination may coordinate with their LGUs and proceed to the vaccination site as soon as possible. They are requested to bring their Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) ID and the vaccination team will readily accommodate them.
- b. **DepEd personnel who fit the A2 requirement of 60 years old and above also have the option to register ahead of the teaching and non-teaching group.** Their vaccinations will be immediately scheduled by the local government unit.
- c. **DepEd personnel who fit the requirements for A3 prioritization may register early so that they will be promptly given immunizations,** subject to the availability of vaccine supplies. This Priority Group (A3) is required to present to the vaccination team documents indicating the status of their comorbid health conditions. Below are examples of **comorbid conditions** under Priority Group A3, as lifted from the DOH DM 2021-0175 (April 8, 2021):
  - i. Chronic respiratory disease and infection such as asthma and respiratory allergies, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Interstitial Lung Diseases, Cystic Fibrosis, or Pulmonary Hypertension, Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Chronic bronchitis, Histoplasmosis, Bronchiectasis
  - ii. Cardiovascular disease such as hypertension, coronary heart diseases, cardiomyopathies, peripheral artery disease, aortic diseases, rheumatic heart disease, congenital heart disease
  - iii. Chronic kidney disease
  - iv. Cerebrovascular diseases such as stroke and transient ischemic attack
  - v. Cancer of malignancy
  - vi. Diabetes Mellitus Type 1 and Type 2
  - vii. Obesity
  - viii. Neurologic diseases such as dementia, Alzheimer's Disease,



Parkinson's Disease, Epilepsy and Seizures, Bell's palsy, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, or acute spinal cord injury

- ix. Chronic liver disease such as hepatitis cirrhosis, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
- x. Immunodeficiency state such as genetic immunodeficiencies, secondary or acquired immunodeficiencies (i.e. prolonged use of corticosteroids), HIV infection, Solid organ or blood transplant patients
- xi. Other diseases such as sickle cell disease, Thalassemia, or Down Syndrome

d. **DepEd personnel who fit the criteria for Priority A5 may also register as soon as possible** so that they can be accommodated right away, subject to availability of vaccine supplies.

The above criteria for the priority population groups for COVID-19 immunization are determined by national issuances, and they may be amended at any time in the future.

Regardless of the priority group one belongs to, the important thing is to register in one's respective LGU of place of residence or LGU of place of work.

**3. DepEd personnel are enjoined to keep themselves updated about the latest guidelines from the DOH about vaccination, especially on eligibility, deferment, and the requirements for medical clearance and certification, among others.**

DepEd personnel, especially those who have registered or will register for vaccination are expected to be properly informed and updated about the latest vaccination qualifications, requirements, procedures, and restrictions.

For proper guidance, copies of all DOH issuances including updates to existing guidelines as well as additional guidelines on vaccination can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/covidvaccinepolicies>.

Some of these issuances are attached to this DTFC memorandum for ready reference:

- a. Department Memorandum 2021-0099 - Interim Omnibus Guidelines for the Implementation of the National Vaccine Deployment Plan for COVID-19 (Annex 3)
- b. Department Circular 2021-0101 - Clarification on Provisions of Department Memorandum 2021-0099 titled the Interim Omnibus





Guidelines for the Implementation of the National Vaccine Deployment Plan for COVID-19 (Annex 4)

- c. Department Memorandum 2021-0157 - Implementing Guidelines for Priority Group A3 and Further Clarification of the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccines (Annex 5)
- d. Department Memorandum 2021-0175 - Further Clarification on the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccines and Additional Guidelines for Sinovac Implementation (Annex 6)

Note that the Google Drive is regularly updated by the DOH to include the latest issuances on vaccination. Therefore, it is reiterated that the issuances annexed to this DTFC memorandum are provided only for reference, and are not meant to be the final or conclusive list of references on vaccination, as subsequent issuances may be released to make necessary updates or changes.

The same issuances are disseminated to and complied with by the LGUs. Therefore, it is expected that the information accessed by DepEd personnel from their respective LGUs are in line with the most updated issuances of the DOH.

Popularized versions of key provisions of these issuances are also regularly posted on the DOH Facebook page. DepEd personnel are enjoined to rely only on the posts made by official sources such as the DOH Facebook page, and to ensure that it is the most recent or updated posts or issuances that they are referring to.

For reference, attached is an infographic shared by the DOH on who can get vaccinated, who shall defer vaccination, and who cannot be vaccinated, per latest guidelines. (Annex 7)

DepEd is also set to implement its comprehensive communication plan in support of the information dissemination efforts of the DOH.

**4. DepEd personnel are instructed to keep a record of their vaccination details for future reporting within DepEd.**

The COVID-19 Vaccine Information Management System - Immunization Registry is the official platform for master listing and pre-registration of individuals for COVID-19 vaccination.

Though LGUs lead in the master listing and scheduling of priority groups, DepEd is coordinating with concerned agencies to have its own database of vaccination-related data. Details will be provided in subsequent





issuances.

For now, DepEd personnel are advised to keep a personal record of the details of their vaccination (e.g., registration, vaccination card) and to be prepared to report the same to DepEd once the Department's database systems are in place.

**5. DepEd personnel are reminded to continue to strictly observe the required health standards before, during, and even after vaccination.**

The DOH has reminded the public about the possible scenarios of being infected with the COVID-19 virus in relation to vaccination. It is still possible to get infected 14 days before the 1<sup>st</sup> dose if a person removes his/her face mask in public, and also after the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses before the onset of optimal protection, which takes effect from 7 to 21 days after the last dose, depending on the vaccine. Thus, everyone is reminded to be cautious during the time before, in between, and after vaccination.

Once vaccinated, a person is protected from the virus but may still be a danger to others as a possible carrier. Thus, the required public health standards, which include physical distancing, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and wearing of masks and face shields among others, shall remain strictly implemented.

**6. DepEd personnel are assured by the DOH that any Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) shall be properly managed.**

DOH guidelines provide for mechanisms to ensure that all vaccine recipients are properly monitored for manifestation of any AEFI and that any AEFI cases are properly referred and managed.

- a. AEFI refers to any untoward medical occurrence which follows immunization, and which does not necessarily have a causal relationship with the usage of the vaccine. AEFIs are classified as a notifiable health event of public health concern in accordance with the 2020 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11332, or the Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act. (DOH DC 2021-0101.)
- b. The health care providers who administered the COVID-19 vaccine to recipients are primarily in charge of regularly monitoring AEFIs among those individuals until one year after vaccination. (DOH DM 2021-0099)
- c. All health care providers and vaccination sites have been instructed by the DOH to proactively detect and notify AEFIs from COVID-19 until one year after the latest dose of the vaccine recipient, as aligned with the instructions from the Emergency Use Authorization granted by the Food and Drug Administration for COVID-19 vaccines, through the established processes. (DOH DC 2021-0101)



d. LGUs and PhilHealth shall ensure all vaccine recipients shall be provided financial coverage especially in terms of AEFI and healthcare up to one year after vaccination. (DOH DM 2021-0157)


DepEd will also include AEFI reports in its monitoring of vaccination concerns and collection of data.

For further queries on these concerns, please contact the following DepEd's National Vaccination Team Members and Principal Representatives to the Sub-Task Group on Registry, Data Management, and M&E of Task Group Immunization Program:


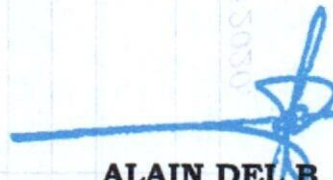
- **Dr. Ella Naliponguit**, Director III, Bureau of Learners Support Services (BLSS), at (02) 8-635-3763 or email at [ella.naliponguit@deped.gov.ph](mailto:ella.naliponguit@deped.gov.ph);
- **Abram Y.C. Abanil**, Director IV, Information and Communications Technology Service (ICTS), at (02) 8-631-9636 or email at [abram.abanil@deped.gov.ph](mailto:abram.abanil@deped.gov.ph); or
- **Atty. Anne Rachel C. Miguel**, Director IV, Bureau of Human Resource and Organizational Development (BHROD), at (02) 8-633-7237 or email at [anne.miguel@deped.gov.ph](mailto:anne.miguel@deped.gov.ph).

For guidance and reference of all.

To: All School Administrators, Principals & Teachers In-Charge  
(Elementary & Secondary)  
**FOR YOUR INFORMATION & APPROPRIATE ACTION**



**MARIE CAROLYN B. VERANO, CESO V**  
Schools Division Superintendent



**ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA**  
Undersecretary  
Chairperson, DepEd Task Force COVID-19



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