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Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim

AIDE MEMOIRE

31 May 2021

**UPDATES ON VACCINATION AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS
ON DEPED MEMORANDUM NO. 28, s. 2021**

The DepEd Task Force COVID-19 (DTFC) provides the following updates to the Secretary on matters relating to the ongoing implementation of the government's vaccination program.

A. Changes in National Policy Directives

Changes in national policy directives have implications on the recently issued **DepEd Memorandum No. 28, s. 2021 or the 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**. These updates are based on the discussions, presentations, and documents secured from the following activities:

Date	Activity
18 May 2021	Town Hall with DepEd SHN Personnel
19 May 2021	Meeting on Masterlisting of National Government Agencies called for by the National Vaccination Operations Center (NVOC)
28 May 2021	Capacity Building for COVID-19 Vaccination to National Government Agencies (NGAs) organized by NVOC
31 May 2021	Follow-up Meeting of DepEd STG/TG Immunization Program Representatives with the NVOC Secretariat

and are summarized below:

Existing policy (DM 28, s. 2021)	Most Recent Updates
"The IATF has identified frontline personnel in basic education and higher education institutions and agencies as part of the Priority Group [A4.11] (IATF Resolution No. 110, s. 2021)," together with 16 other industry-specific subgroups, whereas "the	Basic education personnel are no longer a separate subcategory (A4.11), but are now part of a single category A4, together with the rest of the government workforce which was previously categorized as B2.



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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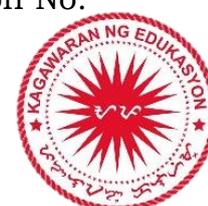


Existing policy (DM 28, s. 2021)	Most Recent Updates
more detailed list [will] be issued by the National Economic Development Authority.”	
“As stipulated in the DOH DM 2021-0099, submission of required data for master listing, microplanning, and ensuring that designated vaccination sites fulfill standards set by the DOH among others are the responsibility of the LGU.”	National Government Agencies (NGAs) are now required to do their own master listing, and even enjoined to prepare their respective micro-plans.
“It is emphasized that DepEd will not do its own vaccination. DepEd personnel will only participate in vaccination initiatives led by the LGUs either as members of the VOC or as volunteers of the Vaccination Team.”	NGAs now have the option to establish their own vaccination sites and mobilize [own] vaccination teams.

1. On the revision of the Category A4

Per the DM 28, s. 2021, “the IATF has identified frontline personnel in basic education and higher education institutions and agencies as part of the Priority Group [A4.11] (IATF Resolution No. 110, s. 2021),” together with 16 other industry-specific subgroups, whereas “the more detailed list [will] be issued by the National Economic Development Authority.”

- a. In the list submitted by NEDA¹, frontline personnel in basic education include **DepEd teachers and education support personnel** as well as **cleaners and janitors**. This list was shared by one of the invited resource persons during the Town Hall on 18 May 2021.
- b. However, as announced during the 28 May 2021 Capacity Building, the 17 industry-specific subgroups first approved through IATF Resolution No. 110 (15 April 2021) are now reduced to only three subgroups:
 - i. Private sector workers required to be physically present at their designated workplace outside of their residences;
 - ii. Employees **in government agencies** and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations and local government units; and
 - iii. Informal sector workers and self-employed who may be required to work outside their residences, and those working in private households.
- c. This new list of categories for A4 is made official by IATF Resolution No. 117 (27 May 2021). (**Annex A**)



¹ <https://www.neda.gov.ph/neda-recommends-priority-sectors-for-a4-group-vaccination/>

- d. In effect, basic education personnel are no longer a separate subcategory (A4.11), but are now part of a single category A4, together with the rest of the government workforce which was previously categorized as B2.
- e. This was also confirmed during the follow-up meeting of DepEd STG/TG Immunization Program Representatives with the NVOC Secretariat on 31 May 2021. It was also said during the meeting that the vaccination of the subgroups under A4 will not be “sequential,” (i.e., that one subgroup will be vaccinated before another subgroup), but will be based on a set of indicators, such as the preparedness of the groups (e.g., of a government agency for the vaccination of their employees).
- f. IATF Resolution No. 117 mentions that vaccine deployment for the updated Priority Group A4 shall be initially focused in NCR, Bulacan, Pampanga, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Metro Cebu, and Metro Davao.

2. On the master listing and microplanning by NGAs

DM 28, s. 2021 cites DOH DM 2021-0099, and provides that “the submission of required data for **master listing, microplanning**, and ensuring that designated vaccination sites fulfill standards set by the DOH among others are the **responsibility of the LGU.**”

- a. NVOC issued Advisory No. 43 (15 May 2021) (**Annex B**) to provide guidance to all government agencies and instrumentalities to begin profiling or master listing employed and contracted workers to properly identify their categorization under the NDVP Prioritization Framework (e.g., A1, A2, A3, and A4).
- b. NVOC Advisory No. 43 requires all government agencies and instrumentalities to provide the NVOC with a breakdown of the number of workers who belong in each of the priority population groups.
- c. Further, all government agencies and instrumentalities are strongly advised to proactively expedite the profiles and master lists of their government workers in order to help the NVOC achieve its goal of accelerating the pace of vaccinations across the country as quickly as possible.
- d. Based on the 28 May 2021 NVOC Capacity Building, the following are to be master-listed: (i) Permanent personnel; (ii) Job-order personnel; (iii) Contractual personnel; and (iv) Consultants.
- e. NVOC Advisory No. 43 advises all government agencies and instrumentalities to designate a focal person who shall take charge the profiling and master listing process and ensure that the outputs of the said process will be transmitted to the NVOC in an orderly and timely manner.



- f. Per the discussions during the 19 May 2021 meeting, 28 May 2021 NVOC Capacity Building, and the 31 May 2021 follow-up meeting, NGAs are also advised to prepare their respective micro-plans. Attached is the slide deck (**Annex C**) from the 28 May 2021 Capacity Building. Attention is invited specially to Slide No. 22 onwards.

3. On establishing own vaccination sites

DM 28, s. 2021 emphasizes “that DepEd will not do its own vaccination. DepEd personnel will only participate in vaccination initiatives led by the LGUs either as members of the VOC or as volunteers of the Vaccination Team.”

- a. Based on the 28 May 2021 NVOC Capacity Building (Refer to Slide No. 24 of the Slide Deck (Annex C), NGAs may utilize whichever modalities fitted [sic] to their needs:
 - i. Establish its own vaccination sites and mobilize vaccination teams;
 - ii. Link with existing vaccination sites with manpower capacities (e.g., AFP health services, national government hospitals such as the Lung Center of the Philippines; and
 - iii. Link with the LGUs and utilize the capacity of the vaccination sites
- b. During the 19 May 2021 meeting and the 28 May 2021 NVOC Capacity Building, the NVOC Secretariat floated the idea of DepEd establishing its own vaccination sites.
- c. The same proposal was strongly emphasized during the 31 May 2021 follow-up meeting.
- d. During the 31 May 2021 follow-up meeting, the NVOC Secretariat also cited the letter dated 24 May 2021 of DepEd Secretary to the DOH Secretary and the Vaccine Czar (**Annex D**) requesting an institutional arrangement in DepEd for the vaccination of its personnel.

B. Representation in the NVOC

- 1. The NVOC is **not the same** as the COVID-19 Vaccine Cluster under the National Incident Command of the National Task Force COVID-19. The differences are as follows:

NVOC	COVID-19 Vaccine Cluster
Focus is on day-to-day vaccine operations (oversees regional and local VOCs and provides directives and technical assistance to specific sites)	Focus is on macro-scale concerns (from vaccine evaluation and selection to procurement to demand generation to foreign negotiations to



NVOC	COVID-19 Vaccine Cluster
	cold chain and logistics); national level only
Chaired by DOH Undersecretary for Field Implementation and Coordination Team; Vice Chair is DILG (since implementation is c/o LGUs)	Chaired by Vaccine Czar
Composed of Teams	Composed of Task Groups

2. Currently, DepEd has designated representatives in the Sub-Task Groups under the Task Group Immunization Program, but **no designated representatives in the NVOC**. Based on the NDVP, DepEd is a member of the Planning, Campaign Management, and Technical Team.

C. Next Steps

1. The DTFC Immunization Program Representatives, particularly the representatives for the Vaccine Cluster STG Registry, Data Management and Monitoring and Evaluation (BHROD and ICTS), shall immediately finalize the database for vaccination, as provided for by DM 28, s. 2021. This database can meet the requirements of the NVOC for the master listing for DepEd. (See **Annex E** for the vaccination data requirements for master listing.)
2. The DTFC Immunization Program Representatives, through the BLSS-School Health Division will consult with SHN personnel on their insights and suggestions regarding the modality that best suits DepEd. A planning workshop with SHN personnel on championing vaccination in DepEd is scheduled on 2 June 2021. BLSS-SHD will use a portion of the program for the consultation.
3. Based on the decision of the Secretary on the modality that DepEd will adopt, the DTFC Immunization Program Representatives will facilitate the preparation of DepEd's micro-plan for submission to the NVOC. The NVOC Secretariat may assist DepEd in the preparation of the said micro-plan.

D. Requested Actions and Recommendations

1. The **decision of the Secretary is requested on the modality that DepEd will adopt for the vaccination of personnel qualified under A4.**

To be consistent with the already issued DM 28, s. 2021 and with the letter of DepEd Secretary to the DOH Secretary and the Vaccine Czar, the DTFC recommends **Modality No. 3**, with provision for institutional arrangements with LGUs (e.g., designated schedule and vaccination for DepEd personnel).

Given the different situations at the LGU level, the Schools Division Superintendents (SDSes) and District Supervisors shall operationalize establishing institutional arrangements with the LGUs consistent with DM



28, s. 2021. If approved by the Vaccine Cluster or if aligned with its directives or that of the NVOC, priority shall be given to the 600 schools mentioned in the letter of DepEd Secretary to the DOH Secretary and the Vaccine Czar.

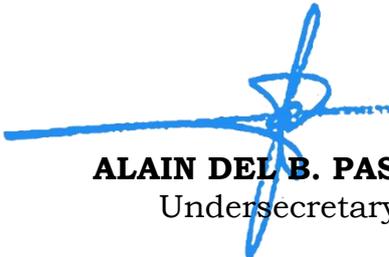
Modality 1 (for NGAs to establish its own vaccination sites and mobilize vaccination teams) while exclusive for DepEd personnel will require more resources and medical personnel. DepEd's School Health and Nutrition personnel at the division level will be overwhelmed by the number of DepEd personnel to vaccinate in their respective jurisdictions.

Modality 2 (for NGAs to link with existing vaccination sites with manpower capacities [e.g., AFP health services, national government hospitals such as the Lung Center of the Philippines]) is likewise not feasible given the huge number of teachers nationwide.

Modality 3 (for NGAs to link with the LGUs and utilize the capacity of the vaccination sites) is in place and our School Health and Nutrition personnel are currently working with LGUs. Likewise, this modality will be the most cost efficient and the vaccination sites are more accessible to DepEd personnel. While DepEd personnel will join the list of A4 category, an institutional arrangement for separate schedules and sites per LGU can be operationalized or established by the SDS and District Supervisors for the vaccination of DepEd personnel as mentioned above.

The DTFC will also submit a summary of what will be the results of its consultation with SHN personnel on the said vaccination modalities.

2. The Secretary is requested to approve the **designation of BHRD and ICTS**—being DepEd's representatives for the Vaccine Cluster STG Registry, Data Management and Monitoring and Evaluation—as **DepEd's focal offices who shall take charge the profiling and master listing process** for transmission to the NVOC, in compliance with the NVOC Advisory No. 43. **(Annex F)**
3. The Secretary is requested to approve the **designation of DepEd's representatives** in the NVOC, to include BLSS-SHD and the Public Affairs Service. **(Annex G)**



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