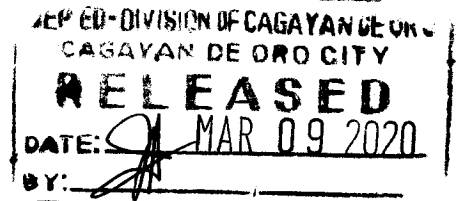




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION X
DIVISION OF CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

DIVISION MEMORANDUM No. 176 s. 2020



TO : Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief, Curriculum Implementation Division
Chief, Governance Operations Division
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

FROM : **CHERRY MAE L. LIMBACO**
Schools Division Superintendent [Signature]

SUBJECT : **DISSEMINATION OF THE FIFTH SET POLICY DIRECTIVES OF
DEPED TASK FORCE COVID- 19**

DATE : March 9, 2020

1. The field is hereby informed of the herein attached DepED Memorandum No. 034, s. 2020 re "FIFTH SET OF POLICY DIRECTIVES OF DEPED TASK FORCE CORONA VIRUS DISEASE 19 (COVID- 19)."
2. For immediate dissemination and strict compliance.



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

09 MAR 2020

DepEd MEMORANDUM
No. **034**, s. 2020

FIFTH SET OF POLICY DIRECTIVES OF DEPED TASK FORCE COVID-19

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Minister, Basic, Higher and Technical Education, BARMM
Bureau and Service Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. The Department of Education (DepEd) Task Force COVID-19 is issuing this fifth set of policy directives to reiterate and elaborate on previously issued measures for the guidance of DepEd officials, personnel and staff at the Central, Regional and Division Offices and schools nationwide, to **ensure heightened precautions** in light of the recent developments in the overall national situation. DepEd Task Force COVID-19 is **monitoring the situation closely and is ready** to make informed, coordinated, and proportionate response based on updated guidelines or advisory by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IAFT-EID) headed by the Department of Health (DOH).

2. **The DOH has raised the COVID-19 Alert System to Code Red sublevel 1**, following the confirmation of local transmission in the country and in anticipation of possible community transmission. In a press release (Enclosure No. 1), the DOH clarifies that this is **"a preemptive call to ensure that national and local governments and public and private health care providers can prepare for possible increase in suspected and confirmed cases."** Under *Code Red sublevel 1*, responses being implemented include intensified contact tracing and home quarantine of close contacts of confirmed cases, improved hospital preparedness, enhanced Severe Acute Respiratory Illness surveillance, and activation of other laboratories outside of RITM to increase capacity to diagnose. DOH Secretary Francisco T. Duque III reminds everyone "to practice personal protective measures such as hand hygiene, social distancing, and proper cough etiquette. Avoid unnecessary travel and postpone mass gatherings, as well."

3. Based on the DOH Door 4 Response (Enclosure No. 2), *Code Red* is equivalent to Alert Level 4 that has been further categorized to *sublevel 1* (at least 1 local transmission) and *sublevel 2* (sustained community transmission beyond capacity). It is clarified that the "community level transmission" referred to in relevant provisions on DM 021, s. 2020 titled **Second Set of Policy Directives of the DepEd Task Force nCoV**, during which suspension of classes can be declared, pertains to a *Code Red sublevel 2* scenario.

4. The Presidential Spokesperson said in a statement (Enclosure No. 3) that "the Office of the President notes the recommendation of the DOH to declare a State of

President who has agreed to issue such declaration after considering all critical factors with the aim of safeguarding the health of the Filipino public.”

5. DepEd offices and schools shall ensure that **all DepEd personnel and learners who are known to have had close contacts with confirmed cases of COVID-19 shall undergo home quarantine**, strictly following prescribed guidelines by health authorities, including the necessary medical check-ups. DepEd personnel and learners who are also known to have had close contacts with those categorized by the DOH as “persons under investigation” shall also be closely monitored by their respective supervisors, advisers, or school heads.

6. The following guidelines on suspension of classes are reiterated for the guidance of all Regional Directors (RDs), Schools Division Superintendents (SDSs), and/or school heads:

- a. If one school has confirmed one positive case of COVID-19, the school head can declare the suspension of classes.
- b. If two or more schools in one city or municipality have confirmed a positive case of COVID-19, the SDSs can declare the suspension of classes in the affected schools and adjacent areas or, depending on the local situation, in the entire city or municipality.
- c. If there is community-level transmission in a city or municipality or several cities or municipalities, the SDSs can declare the suspension of classes in the affected cities/municipalities or, depending on the local situation, in the entire province.
- d. If there is a community-level transmission in two or more provinces, RDs can declare suspension of classes in the affected provinces or, depending on the local situation, in the entire region.
- e. **Confirmation of cases, as well as community-level transmission, shall only come from the DOH.**

7. Conduct of activities for the month of March shall be guided by the following:

- a. **All national activities** involving learners and/or teachers requiring travel and congregation of various schools, divisions, and/or regions, **except for the already ongoing National Schools Press Conference (NSPC) and the National Festival of Talents (NFOT), are suspended effective upon the issuance of this memorandum, and will remain so until further notice through an appropriate memorandum.**
- b. **All regional activities** involving learners and/or teachers requiring travel and congregation of various schools and/or division, including Regional Palaro (Regional Athletic Meets), **are suspended effective upon the issuance of this memorandum and until further notice.**
- c. All organizers of suspended national and regional activities are required to report suspended activities to the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS) through <http://bit.ly/depedsuspensionofactivities>.
- d. **All division and district activities** that involve the gathering/congregation of various schools in cities and municipalities where there have been

the issuance of this memorandum and until further notice. As of March 7, 2020, these are Taguig City and San Juan City, National Capital Region.

- e. **All division and district activities** that involve the gathering/congregation of various schools in all other cities and municipalities **are highly discouraged**. Organizers are advised to seek the recommendation of local health authorities should the activities push through. The applicable guidelines enumerated in *Item No. 7a* of this memorandum shall also be observed.
- f. **All off-campus activities as defined in DepEd Order No. 66, s. 2017 are suspended, effective immediately**, upon the issuance of this memorandum.
- g. Activities that involve congregation of learners within the school may proceed, provided that all personnel and learners exhibiting respiratory infections **must not attend**, and that the applicable guidelines enumerated in *Item No. 7a* of this memorandum are strictly observed. Personnel and learners exhibiting respiratory infections shall be referred to appropriate health personnel for proper evaluation and/or referral to a hospital if needed.
- h. The ongoing NSPC and NFOT must strictly adhere to the following guidelines:
 - i. Strict observance of relevant protocols outlined under DM 015, s. 2020, and subsequent DepEd Task Force COVID-2019 issuances, including **hand and respiratory hygiene protocols**;
 - ii. Presence of members of the concerned DepEd Regional and Division Task Forces on COVID-2019;
 - iii. Ensuring that no learner and/or teacher who has close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 is allowed to travel and/or to participate in the activities;
 - iv. Submission by all delegates of individual info-sheets providing personal information, travel details, and travel history, with consent of collection and use of personal information for medical and public health purposes;
 - v. Daily cleaning and disinfection of activity venues and participants' accommodations and ensuring the availability of hand sanitizers in strategic areas;
 - vi. Hygienic food handling practices during meal and snack break times, including ensuring that buffet is strictly assisted to limit the number of persons who will touch serving utensils, and practical measures such as discouraging talking in areas where food is served;
 - vii. Constant reminders of precautionary measures to participants in the course of the event;
 - viii. Daily monitoring by the delegation heads for any respiratory

- ix. Protocol for isolation and coordinated management by a local medical team;
 - x. Removal of avoidable event components from the program, such as parades; and,
 - xi. Close coordination with local health and local government units.
8. All guidelines related to travel of DepEd personnel and learners, and the corresponding quarantine requirement, as enumerated in DM 031, s. 2020 remain.
- a. All official and personal travels to People's Republic of China and its Special Administrative Regions, and North Gyeongsang Province of South Korea, including Daegu City and Cheongdo County are temporarily banned.
 - b. Official travels of all DepEd personnel and learners previously approved by the Secretary for the month of March 2020 to countries identified to have confirmed cases of persons under investigation for COVID-19, as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO), are revoked. All DepEd personnel with approved personal travels to the same countries are highly advised not to proceed. The latest list of countries with confirmed cases is accessible in the WHO's website (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus2019/situation-reports>).
 - c. All personnel and learners who decide to proceed with their scheduled personal travels for the month of March to countries identified to have confirmed cases or persons under investigation for COVID-19 shall be subject to **mandatory self-quarantine for 14 days** from the date of arrival in the Philippines, strictly following DM 031, s. 2020 on:
 - i. reporting to appropriate local health authorities upon arrival in the Philippines;
 - ii. strictly observing the guidelines on room isolation and contacts of persons undergoing quarantine, use of disposable surgical mask, proper hand hygiene practice, respiratory hygiene and standard precaution, food handling of persons undergoing home quarantine, disposal of used gloves, tissues, and masks, cleaning and disinfection, and reporting; and
 - iii. securing the necessary medical certificate before reporting back to school or work.
 - d. Learners on quarantine shall not be marked absent and shall be provided with alternative delivery modes of education.
 - e. All personnel are warned against travelling abroad without approved travel authority. Such act may result in the filing of administrative actions.
9. Weekend school-wide general cleaning and intensified disinfection efforts, on top of regular cleaning efforts during school days, shall continue.
10. All DepEd offices and schools, upon the declaration by the President of state of public health emergency are authorized to use existing maintenance and other

supplies for offices and schools such as, among others, thermal scanners, hand sanitizers, alcohol, hand soap, disinfectants, and facial masks.

11. All DepEd personnel and learners are reminded to use and share only verified and up-to-date information from reliable and official sources such as the WHO, the DOH, DepEd, and other concerned government agencies. **All DepEd schools and offices are instructed to share only from these sources when disseminating information on social media and other platforms.**
12. Regional and Division health personnel, DRRM coordinators, and Information Officers who are members of their respective Regional and Division DRRM Teams activated by DM 15, s. 2020 for COVID-19, are instructed to join the **Workplace Group "QRRT-COVID-19 Reports"** where they will send **reports directly to the DepEd [Central Office] Quick Response and Recovery Team on COVID-19 (QRRT-COVID-19) on a daily basis and/or as frequently as needed.** They shall provide daily updates on the number of personnel and learners on quarantine, class suspensions, and other relevant and urgent incidents that need to be immediately reported to the Central Office QRRT for appropriate and quick response, guidance, or direction. Requests to join the group must be sent to medical.nursing@deped.gov.ph. Aside from the Workplace Group and this e-mail address, the Central Office QRRT may also be reached at mobile number **09163424426**. These specific DRRM Team members (school health personnel, DRRM coordinators, Information Officers) shall also serve as the official regional or division channel for dissemination of information coming from the Central Office QRRT.
13. **Weekly health situation reports from schools, consolidated by the SDOs** through their DRRM Teams, shall continue to be submitted to BLSS-SHD through e-mail at medical.nursing@deped.gov.ph, as guided by the Enclosure No. 2 to DM 15, s. 2020.
14. All other relevant policy directives and measures contained in DM 015, s. 2020 titled **First Set of Policy Directives of the DepEd Task Force nCoV**, DM 021, s. 2020 titled **Second Set of Policy Directives of the DepEd Task Force nCoV**, DM 023, s. 2020 titled **Third Set of Policy Directives of the DepEd Task Force COVID-19**, and DM 031, s. 2020 titled **Fourth Set of Policy Directives of the DepEd Task Force COVID-19** are sustained. All are instructed to constantly review and disseminate, and remain vigilant and sustain the implementation of all the necessary provisions from these memoranda, particularly the safety precautions and protocols, and the measures for the prevention and control of COVID-19.
15. Private schools are highly encouraged to adopt the precautionary measures contained in this memorandum.
16. For information, please contact the **Quick Response and Recovery Team on COVID-19 (QRRT-COVID-19)** at BLSS-SHD through email at blss.shd@deped.gov.ph or at telephone number (02) 8632-9935.
17. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES
Secretary

Incls.:

As stated

References:

DepEd Order (No. 66, s, 2017)

DepEd Memorandum: Nos. 011 and 019, s. 2020

(015, 021, 023 and 031, s. 2020)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

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