



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION III – CENTRAL LUZON
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTECITY
PARTIDA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

February 6, 2020

SCHOOL MEMORANDUM

No. 008 s. 2020

To: All Teaching and Non-Teaching Personnel
LIS Coordinator
All Others Concerned

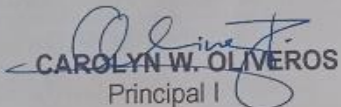
REITERATION OF THE FIRST SET OF POLICY DIRECTIVES OF THE DEPED TASK FORCE NCOV

1. Pursuant to DepEd Memorandum No. 15, s. 2020 regarding policy directives on 2019-nCoV the following are hereby reiterated:
 - a. Official travel of all DepEd personnel and learners previously approved by the Secretary for the month of February 2020 to countries identified to have confirmed cases or persons under investigation for 2019-nCoV are revoked. All DepEd personnel with approved personal travels to the same countries are highly advised not to proceed.
 - b. In the interest of public health, all public and private basic education schools and learning centers are duty-bound to exercise due diligence and take precautionary measures to minimize exposure to risks associated with the 2019-nCoV ARD and support government efforts to contain the spread of the virus. Upon advice of DOH, all national and regional activities involving learners and/or regions are suspended. All division and district activities that involve the gathering/congregation of various schools are highly discourage.
 - c. All off-campus activities as defined in DepEd Order No. 66, s. 2017 (Implementing Guidelines on the Conduct of Off-Campus Activities) are suspended.
 - d. Campaigns, especially classroom discussion, shall focus on the promotion of precautionary and safety measures and healthy behaviors Campaigns shall also tackle the nature of the 2019-nCoV ARD, ways of transmission, and signs and symptoms.
 - e. All offices and schools shall utilize existing referral systems as indicated in the School Health and Nutrition Service manual for personnel and learners who are exhibiting symptoms of respiratory infections and others.
 - f. All advisers shall operationalize the Preventive Alert System (PAS) in their respective class.
 - g. All advisers shall conduct daily monitoring of health status of children and maintain a record of health status.

2. Likewise, the following activities are postponed. A separate advisory shall be issued by the Schools Division Office for the new schedule:

National Science and Technology Fair, Feb. 11-13, 2020
National Schools Press Conference, Feb. 17-21, 2020
National Festival of Talents, Feb. 17-21, 2020
Central Luzon Regional Athletic meet, Feb. 22-28, 2020
2020 MTAP-DepEd Math Challenge Division Finals, Feb 6 & 7, 2020
In-House Training in Preparation for CLARAA Athletic Meet, Feb. 11 -13, 2020
Interaksiyon 2020: Gurong San Joseno, Feb 11, 12 & 13, 2020
Kalat No Way Grand Launching, February 13, 2020
FY 2020 Budget Forum, Feb. 18, 2020

3. Classroom-based flag raising and retreat ceremonies are highly encourage. Conduct of classroom-based activities per DepEd Order No. 9, series 2005 is emphasized.
4. Attach is DepEd Order No. 15, s. 2020 for details.
5. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


CAROLYN W. OLIVEROS
Principal I



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

04 FEB 2020

DepEd MEMORANDUM
No. **015**, s. 2020

FIRST SET OF POLICY DIRECTIVES OF THE DEPED TASK FORCE NCOV

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) issued on February 1, 2020, DepEd Memorandum (DM) No. 011, s. 2020, titled **Creation of a Task Force for the Management of Department of Education Response to Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease (2019-nCoV ARD)**, following the expansion of the DepEd Quick Response and Recovery Team (QRRT) that included 2019-nCoV ARD. The memorandum declares that the DepEd regards the 2019-nCoV ARD as a matter of serious and urgent concern, and supports the overall efforts of the Philippine government to manage this public health situation.
2. On February 2, 2020, the President issued a directive on the containment and neutralization of the spread of the 2019-nCoV ARD. Accordingly, all heads of departments, agencies, offices, and instrumentalities of the government were directed to adopt, coordinate, and implement the said guideline and such other guidelines to be issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Philippines created by Executive Order No. 168, s. 2014, with the Department of Health as chairperson.
3. Pursuant to the directive of the President and DM 011, s. 2020, and in consideration of current government efforts to contain the 2019-nCoV ARD, this memorandum is being issued for the information and guidance of DepEd officials, personnel and staff at the Central, Regional and Division Offices and schools nationwide.
4. This memorandum provides a background/situationer on the 2019-nCoV ARD, policy directives, and guidelines in the following enclosures:

- Enclosure No. 1 - Background and Situationer;
- Enclosure No. 2 - Measures for the Prevention and Control of the 2019-nCoV ARD in Basic Education Schools and Offices;
- Enclosure No. 3 - Formation/Activation of DRRM Teams in DepEd Regional Offices, Schools Division Offices, and Schools;
- Enclosure No. 4 - Operationalizing the Preventive Alert System in Schools (PASS);
- Enclosure No. 5 - Safety Precautions and Protocols;

- Enclosure No. 6 - Guidance for School Administrators to Help Reduce the Spread of Seasonal Influenza in K to 12 Schools;
Enclosure No. 7 - Protect Yourself from Coronavirus;
Enclosure No. 8 - Medical Referral Form; and
Enclosure No. 9 - 2019-nCoV ARD Health Situation Report Template.

5. In the interest of public health, all public and private basic education schools and learning centers are duty-bound to exercise due diligence and take precautionary measures to minimize exposure to risks associated with the 2019-nCoV ARD and support government efforts to contain the spread of the virus. Private schools are highly encouraged to adopt the precautionary measures contained in this memorandum.

6. For information, please contact the **Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health Division**, through email at blss.shd@deped.gov.ph or at telephone number (02) 8632-9935.

7. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES
Secretary

Encls.:
As stated

Reference:
DepEd Memorandum (No. 011, s. 2020)

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

BUREAUS AND SERVICES
EMPLOYEES
OFFICIALS
SCHOOLS

BACKGROUND AND SITUATIONER¹

1. Background

- a. On December 31, 2019, the WHO China Country Office was informed of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. This was later determined to be caused by a novel (new) type or strain of coronavirus not previously detected in people. On January 12, 2020, China shared the genetic sequence of the novel coronavirus. The novel coronavirus is given the interim name "2019-nCoV".
- b. WHO describes coronaviruses as a large family of viruses that can cause respiratory illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and other breathing difficulties. More severe cases can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. Coronavirus is named as such because of the crown-like spikes on their surface.
- c. The 2019-nCoV has since spread to a number of countries, including the Philippines. WHO has declared the 2019-nCoV outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020.
- d. According to the WHO (February 4, 2020), there are 17,391 confirmed cases globally, of which 17,238 are in China (2,296 severe; 361 deaths), and 153 cases (1 death) are in 23 other countries.
- e. Two of the confirmed cases are in the Philippines, and the lone recorded death from 2019-nCoV outside China is one of the two Philippine cases. The two cases are a 38-year-old Chinese female and her companion, a 44-year-old Chinese male. Both patients are from Wuhan, China, and arrived in the Philippines via Hong Kong last January 21, 2020. They were admitted to the hospital last January 25, 2020. The male patient was reported by DOH to have died on February 1, 2020, the lone recorded death from 2019-nCoV outside China. Contact tracing of passengers aboard the flights of the two positive cases and in places where the patients stayed and travelled are ongoing.
- f. The 2019-nCoV situation is ongoing. As of February 3, 2020, the Philippines has 80 patients under investigation.

¹ Sourced from the Department of Health (DOH) and the website of the World Health Organization (WHO), and additionally from other reputable sources such as the Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) of the United States of America.

2. Reported Transmission of 2019-nCoV

- a. Because 2019-nCoV is a new type or strain of coronavirus, knowledge and evidence on its various aspects are still evolving. The report of China to the WHO indicated that the outbreak was associated with exposures in one seafood market in Wuhan City, suggesting an animal to person transmission. However, person-to-person transmission is now indicated in the current spread.
- b. WHO suspects that human-to-human transmission of the 2019-nCoV can be similar to previous coronaviruses, which is through a respiratory route whereby droplets or small particles from an infected person are expelled such as when one sneezes or coughs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the leading national public health institute of the United States, explains that these droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. It adds that it is currently unclear if a person can get 2019-nCoV ARD by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching his/her own mouth, nose, or possibly his/her eyes. While WHO has highlighted that the main driver of transmission is symptomatic cases, there are a few reported cases of transmission of 2019-nCoV ARD from infected people before they developed symptoms.

3. Actions by the Philippine Government

- a. The Department of Health reports that it is closely monitoring individuals who manifested signs of respiratory infection and had a history of travel to China, and is coordinating with WHO and China Center for Disease Control for updates. It is also enhancing its coronavirus laboratory testing capacity, hospital preparedness, rapid response, and its risk communication and information dissemination. Personal Protective Equipment are made available at the Bureau of Quarantine, Centers for Health Development, and DOH Hospitals.
- b. The Bureau of Quarantine is working with airlines and airport authorities to strengthen border surveillance, while the Epidemiology Bureau is heightening its community surveillance.
- c. The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Philippines (IATF-EID) is mandated by Executive Order No. 168, s. 2014 to establish preparedness and ensure efficient government response to assess, monitor, contain, and prevent the spread of any potential epidemic in the Philippines. The DOH Secretary, as chairperson, convened the IATF-EID for its first meeting on the 2019-nCoV ARD on January 28, 2020. A subsequent meeting was held on January 31, 2020.

- d. On February 2, 2020, the Office of the President, through a statement by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, approved the following recommendations of the LATF-EID:
- i. Temporarily banning the entry of any person, regardless of nationality, except Filipino citizens and holders of Permanent Resident Visa issued by the Philippine Government, directly coming from China and its Special Administrative Regions;
 - ii. Temporarily banning the entry of any person, regardless of nationality, except Filipino citizens and holders of Permanent Resident Visa issued by the Philippine Government, who, within fourteen (14) days immediately preceding arrival in the Philippines, has been to China and its Special Administrative Regions;
 - iii. A mandatory fourteen (14) day quarantine for Filipinos and Permanent Resident Visa holders coming from any place in China and its Special Administrative Regions;
 - iv. Temporary ban on Filipinos from travel to China and its Special Administrative Regions; and
 - v. Establishment of a repatriation and quarantine facility.
- e. Other government agencies have also initiated their respective actions in support of the overall government efforts to address the 2019-nCoV ARD.
- f. On the part of the Department of Education, its Undersecretary for Administration issued Memorandum 08-0120-0598 dated January 24, 2020, titled Department of Education's Response on Health Problems due to Coronavirus and Re-Emergence of Polio in the Philippines, and addressed to all Regional Directors, Schools Division Superintendents, of and Principals and School Heads. The Memorandum advised all field units to make handwashing a habit, cover one's mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, avoid contact with people who show signs of respiratory illness, drink plenty of water and ensure proper cooking of food, and consult a health facility if symptoms of cough and colds persist. All units were directed to support measures, awareness and initiatives on the coronavirus.
- g. The DepEd Secretary also called on schools and coordinated with DOH officials for the implementation of DOH guidelines, particularly on any decision for any school lockdown in specific communities should a need arise.
- h. With the confirmation by the DOH of the first case of patient testing positive for the 2019-nCoV in the afternoon of January 30, 2019 and the declaration by WHO of the 2019-nCoV outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of