



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
REGION VIII - EASTERN VISAYAS

April 26, 2021

**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM**

No. **217**, s. 2021

**USE OF DEPED CLASSROOMS AND OTHER FACILITIES AS VACCINATION CENTERS**

To: Schools Division Superintendents  
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads  
All Others Concerned

- Attached herewith is a Memorandum from the Office of the Secretary, Department of Education on the **Use of DepEd Classrooms and Other Facilities as Vaccination Centers**, dated 13 March 2021.
- The Schools Division Superintendents are enjoined to ensure that the provisions of this memorandum are strictly adhered and site validated before endorsing requests of the Local Government Units (LGUs) for further action of this Office.
- For guidance and compliance.

  
**MA. GEMMA MERCADO LEDESMA**  
Regional Director 

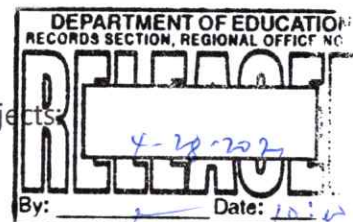
Enclosures: None

References: (as stated)

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

COVID-19 VACCINATION GUIDELINES

ESSD-CPV







Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO :** Undersecretaries  
Assistant Secretaries  
Minister, Basic, Higher and Technical Education, BARMM  
Bureau Directors  
Directors of Services, Centers and Heads of Units  
Regional Directors  
Schools Division Superintendents  
Public Elementary and Secondary Schools  
All Others Concerned

**FROM :**   
**LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES**  
Secretary 

**SUBJECT :** **USE OF DEPED CLASSROOMS AND OTHER FACILITIES AS VACCINATION CENTERS**

**DATE :** 13 March 2021

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The use of DepEd classrooms and other facilities in times of emergencies has long been the subject debate and controversy. This is because for decades, it has been a common practice for schools to be utilized for emergencies—whether for storms, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and other natural disasters, civic endeavors like elections, disruption of peace and order in conditions of ideological conflict, health emergencies and the like.

Under the present administration, the President himself reiterated that classrooms can only be used as a last resort. He himself encouraged local government units to construct their own multi-purpose schools so that learners will not be displaced in times of emergencies.

This policy was also confirmed by other departments like the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). With the onset of COVID 19, the demand for the use of school facilities further accelerated. Thus, schools are now used as quarantine and isolation centers in addition to serving as evacuation and *bakwit* refugee centers, as well as community shelters during natural calamities and so on.

Once more, DepEd is inundated with requests to use school facilities as vaccination centers. During the Joint EXECOM/MANCOM Meeting last March 10, I stated the following as the DepEd position. This same position was presented to IATF last March 11, 2021.

1. Existing policies with regards to the use of DepEd facilities still apply to vaccination centers.
2. Not all DepEd facilities can comply with the DOH and IATF requirements for a vaccination center. Thus, the opinion and the assessment of DOH must first be sought on the suitability of a facility as vaccination center.
3. In cases where there are already other health-related projects in a school, a vaccination center need not be put up anymore because of the risks involved. In other words, health-related activities should not be mixed with other activities in the same school facility.

For guidance and compliance.