



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

January 5, 2022

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. **000011**, s. 2022

**CLARIFICATION ON DFTC MEMORANDUM NO. 575, s. 2021 RE IATF VACCINATION
REQUIREMENT FOR PERSONNEL REPORTING ON-SITE
BEGINNING 01 DECEMBER 2021**

To: Schools Division Superintendents
Regional Office Division Chiefs
All Others Concerned

- Attached is a DepEd Memo from DepEd Task Force COVID-19 (DFTC) Memorandum No. 586 from the Office of Usec Alain Del B. Pascua, Undersecretary and Chairperson of DTFC providing some clarifications on IATF Vaccination Requirement for Personnel reporting on-site starting December 1, 2021.
- For the information and guidance of all concerned.

for: *rlm*
EVELYN R. FETALVERO, CESO IV
Regional Director

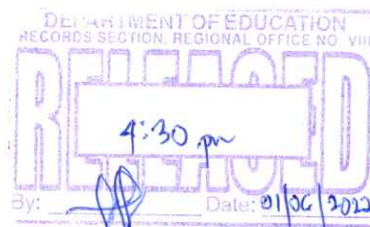
Enclosures: As stated

References: Regional Memo No. 877, s. 2021

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

COVID-19 TASK FORCE COVID-19 VACCINATION

ESSD-ICC





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DepEd Task Force COVID-19
MEMORANDUM No. 586
 28 December 2021

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

Subject: **CLARIFICATIONS ON DTFC MEMORANDUM NO. 575**
TITLED IATF VACCINATION REQUIREMENT FOR
PERSONNEL REPORTING ON-SITE BEGINNING
01 DECEMBER 2021

The DepEd Task Force COVID-19 (DTFC) provides the following clarifications on the **DTFC Memorandum No. 575** titled *IATF Requirement for Personnel Reporting On-Site Beginning 01 December 2021*. The memorandum has been approved by the Secretary for compliance by the offices and personnel concerned.

1. The IATF vaccination/RT-PCR/antigen requirement for onsite personnel, as stipulated in IATF Resolution Nos. 148-B and 149 and as elaborated in DTFC Memorandum No. 575, applies only to “areas where there are sufficient supplies of COVID-19 vaccines *as determined by the National Vaccines Operation Center (NVOC)*” (italics added).

As such, offices and schools have been instructed to coordinate with their respective Regional VOCs and/or Local VOCs to inquire whether there are sufficient supplies of COVID-19 vaccines in their respective areas, *as determined by the NVOC*.

In principle, the IATF requirement cannot be implemented until an area has been *determined by the NVOC* to have sufficient supplies of COVID-19 vaccines.

Per the DTFC’s latest coordination with the NVOC, the mechanism to determine whether an area (e.g., an LGU) has sufficient supplies of the COVID-19 vaccines is still being finalized.

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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2. When and where already implemented, the requirement to present a negative RT-PCR/antigen result shall apply to those who are required to report onsite but are not fully vaccinated, and shall be **at their own expense**, except when they have valid medical reasons (as validated by a DepEd medical officer) and their second dose is not yet due pursuant to the interval prescribed for the brand of vaccine they received as first dose whose tests shall be facilitated or covered by their respective offices.

IATF Resolution No. 149 does not say that “all partially vaccinated employees in the public and private sector tasked to do onsite work need not undergo regular RT-PCR test” per se, but that they need not undergo it “*at their own expense*, as long as their second dose is not yet due pursuant to the interval prescribed for the brand of vaccine received as first dose” (italics added).

Thus, personnel who have acceptable reasons for not being fully vaccinated will still be required to present a negative RT-PCR/antigen result but the testing shall not be at their own expense.

3. In consideration of offices who may not have the capacity to facilitate/cover the expenses for the testing of the said personnel, the existing onsite work capacity requirements based on the Alert Levels may be maximized to place concerned personnel under applicable work arrangements while they are waiting to be fully vaccinated.

At Alert Level II, government agencies are allowed to place up to 20% of its workforce under work-from-home arrangement. Personnel who are not yet fully vaccinated may be placed under such arrangement, while they shall continue to be encouraged to be fully vaccinated, especially in anticipation that LGUs will soon be placed under Alert Level I, where full onsite capacity will already be required for all government agencies and instrumentalities.

4. As indicated in DTFC Memorandum No. 575, all are advised to adhere to the guidance of the Bureau of Human Resource and Organizational Development in handling the attendance records of personnel (e.g., marking as absent, charging to existing leave credits) who may not be able to report onsite due to failure to comply with the vaccination/RT-PCR/antigen requirement.
5. The DTFC also clarifies that its recommendation in DTFC Memorandum No. 575 to impose the same vaccination/RT-PCR/antigen requirement to “visitors who need to enter officer premises for necessary transactions” is in the context of the said visitors sharing the same workspace as the fully vaccinated personnel.

For consistency, if only personnel who are fully vaccinated or who present a negative RT-PCR/antigen result are allowed to report onsite, the same shall be expected of guests who will share the same workspace or have close contact with the onsite personnel.



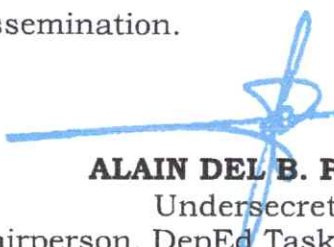
Such requirement, however, is not *necessarily* expected of guests and visitors who may need to enter work premises but will not have close contact or share the same space with fully-vaccinated personnel reporting onsite, such as the case of parents and other community members entering schools to pick up modules. It is reiterated, however, that the required health standards, such as mandatory wearing of masks at all times, observing physical distancing and preventing crowding/congregating, shall be strictly observed.


For these instances, the Head of Functional Office or the team designated for COVID-19 response in the office is given the authority to impose such requirement, as deemed necessary. For example, the Central Office (CO) Task Force COVID-19, through the CO Medical Clinic, has long made this a requirement for visitors and guests entering CO premises, even before the IATF issued a similar requirement.

Given the evolving guidance from national authorities regarding this matter, all are advised to closely follow and pay attention to any new national issuances that may provide relevant updates and changes to DTFC Memorandum No. 575. As also indicated in the said memorandum, these updates and changes will be automatically honored.

For queries regarding this concern, please contact the DTFC Secretariat, BLSS-SHD, through (02) 8632 9935 or email at medical.nursing@deped.gov.ph.

For proper guidance and widest dissemination.


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



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