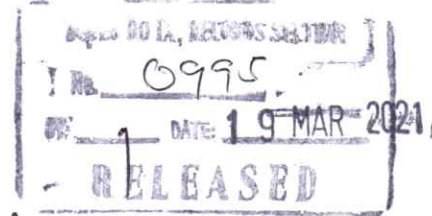




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGIONAL OFFICE IX- ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA



March 18, 2021

Regional Advisory
No. 64 s. 2021

To: Schools Division Superintendent
Curriculum and Implementation Division Chiefs
School Governance and Operation Division Chiefs
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

FROM: **DR. ISABELITA M. BORRES, CESO III**
Regional Director

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

Date: March 18, 2021

1. This has reference to unnumbered Memorandum from the office of the Secretary Leonor M. Briones re: **Use of DepEd Classrooms and Other Facilities As Vaccination Centers** dated March 13, 2021.
2. Deped is inundated to with requests to use school facilities as vaccination centers during the Joint EXECOM/MANCOM Meeting last March 10, 2021.
3. See attached Memorandum for your guidance.
4. For more information and other query, you may contact DR. MARIETTA R. ANHAW, Administrative Division Chief through her email address (mariettaranhaw@gmail.com) or (Cellphone Nos. 09985488045/09273943190).
5. For guidance and compliance.



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



The use of DepEd classrooms and other facilities in times of emergencies has long been the subject of 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 regard 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.