



Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim

OUA MEMO 00-0721-0026
MEMORANDUM
07 July 2021

For: **Regional Directors**
School Division Superintendents
Regional and Division Engineers
All Concerned

Subject: **USE OF DEPED SCHOOLS AS**
ISOLATION AREAS/FACILITIES
DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Department of Education expresses its full cooperation with the President, the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, and the Cabinet on the measures related to the mobilization of resources to combat the COVID-19 threat. In this light, the Department released Office Memorandum 2020-004, titled *Guidance to Regional Directors for Action on Requests by Local Government Units to Use DepEd Schools and Engage DepEd Personnel in Activities Related to COVID 19*, to aid LGUs in isolating infected individuals and in utilizing the school facilities for other purposes (such as mobile markets, venues for food packing, facility for showering, etc.).

Aligned with RA 10821 or the *Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act*, the Department recognizes that school facilities may be used for other purposes such as an evacuation center only when there is no other available place or structure which can be used. However, please note that the implementation of CY2020 and CY2021 Infrastructure Projects is expected to start on the third quarter of 2021, and this will require the use of the school premises for the construction/repair of school buildings. Moreover, with cash-based budgeting in place, these projects need to be completed by end of 2021 to avoid the lapsing of funds.

With this, recipient schools of CY2020 and CY2021 Infrastructure Projects are directed to respectfully decline requests for their schools to be used as isolation facilities citing the reasons above. Conversely, if the recipient school is currently being used as an isolation area, two possible courses of action may be taken:



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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- a) If the Division Engineer determines that the school is large enough to segregate the isolation area and the construction site, the school can still house the isolation facility provided that barriers will be erected.
- b) If the Division Engineer determines that the school is not large enough to cater to both the isolation facility and the construction of school buildings, it is imperative to coordinate with the corresponding Local Government Unit (LGU) and request the immediate transfer of the isolation facility to a nearby school which is not a recipient of CY2020 or CY2021 Infrastructure Projects.

The Department is one with the intent of curbing the surge of COVID-19 cases and hopefully putting an end to the pandemic. However, the DepEd is also lodged with the primary mandate of ensuring that the needs of schoolchildren are met including the establishment of adequate, safe, and conducive learning facilities.

For guidance and compliance.

Thank you.



ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA
Undersecretary



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