



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**

19 FEB 2020

DepEd MEMORANDUM  
No. **023** s. 2020

**THIRD SET OF POLICY DIRECTIVES OF THE DEPED TASK FORCE COVID-19**

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. Relative to the ongoing efforts of the Department of Education (DepEd) to respond to the Corona Virus Disease 19 (COVID-19)—formerly referred to as novel coronavirus acute respiratory disease (2019-nCoV ARD)—the Department is issuing this memorandum to reiterate and elaborate on previously issued measures, for the guidance of officials, personnel and staff at the central, regional and division offices and schools nationwide.
2. As the novel coronavirus has been given a new name by the World Health Organization (WHO), all mentions of 2019-nCoV in previous issuances—including the name of the DepEd Task Force created to respond to the health situation, per DepEd Memorandum (DM) No. 011, s. 2020 titled **Creation of a Task Force for the Management of the Department of Education Response to Novel Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease**, and as amended by DM 019, S. 2020 titled **Amendment to DepEd Memorandum No. 011, s. 2020**—shall be deemed charged to COVID-19. All issuances and collaterals that will be developed from this point on shall use the new official name for the coronavirus.
3. All policy directives and measures contained in DM 015, s. 2020 titled **First Set of Policy Directives of the DepEd Task Force nCoV**, and the DM 21, s. 2020 titled **Second Set of Policy Directives of the DepEd Task Force NCoV** are sustained, subject to the appropriate changes enumerated herein.
4. The following measures are reiterated and further elaborated:
  - a. **The travel measures and restrictions as stipulated in Enclosure No. 2 to DM 015, s. 2020, remain in effect, subject to the latest updates and advisories on travel restrictions by concerned authorities.** Further, all personnel and learners who decide to proceed with their scheduled personal travels for the month of February to countries identified to have confirmed cases of COVID-19 shall be subject to **mandatory self-quarantine for 14 days** from the date of arrival in the Philippines. The 14 days of self-quarantine of DepEd personnel shall be charged to their leave credits, while the learners on self-quarantine shall be provided with alternative delivery modes (ADM) of education.

- b. Learners on quarantine, as well as learners excused from attending school-based activities that involve congregation of learners, shall not be marked absent, provided that they are being given ADMs of education.

5. Units at the Central Office, Regional Offices, Schools Division Offices (SDOs), and schools may already **resume the conduct of national, regional, and/or off-campus activities starting February 24, 2020**, provided all precautionary measures identified by DepEd in previous memoranda, and by the Department of Health (DOH) in its issuances are strictly followed. This is in accordance with the joint statement of the DOH, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Tourism (DOT) on Public Gatherings, dated February 18, 2020 (Enclosure No. 1).

6. Enclosure No. 3 of DM 015, s. 2020 specifies that schools shall **ensure adequate supply of water and soap in schools, and hand sanitizers and/or rubbing alcohol at entrances of schools and offices and maintain the cleanliness of schools, including the regular disinfection of doorknobs and handles**. In this light, schools are specifically instructed to


- a. dedicate weekends for school-wide general cleaning and intensified disinfection efforts, on top of regular cleaning efforts during school days; and
- b. utilize the schools' maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) to effectively execute the protective measures enclosed in DM 015, s. 2020.

7. SDOs are reminded to consolidate the weekly health situation reports from schools for submission to the **Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health Division**, as guided by the Enclosure No. 2 to DM 015, s. 2020.

8. It is reiterated that private schools are highly encouraged to adopt the precautionary measures contained in DepEd's memoranda pertaining to its response to the COVID-19.

9. For more information, please contact the **Quick Response and Recover Team on COVID-19 (QRRT-COVID-19)** at the Bureau of Learner Support Services, 3rd Floor, Mabini Building, Department of Education Central Office, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City through email at [blss.shd@deped.gov.ph](mailto:blss.shd@deped.gov.ph) or at telephone number (02) 8632-9935.

10. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.



**LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES**  
Secretary

Encl.: As stated

References: DepEd Memorandum (Nos. 011, 019, 015 and 021, s. 2020)

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

BUREAUS AND OFFICES  
EMPLOYEES  
LEARNERS

OFFICIALS  
SCHOOLS



## **JOINT STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT) ON PUBLIC GATHERINGS**

The Department of Health (DOH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Tourism (DOT) would like to assure everyone that it is safe to organize and attend public gatherings, meetings and festivals as long as all precautionary measures identified by the DOH are observed.

This clarifies the DOH's Advisory on Concerts and Other Public Events and Gatherings issued last February 07, 2020.

The DOH reminds the general public to wash your hands regularly, and to seek medical attention if signs of cough, colds, sore throat and fever appear. All preventive and precautionary measures have been put in place by the national government to contain the spread of the COVID-19.

The guidelines in handling guests in tourism enterprises during this global emergency are being implemented in hotels and resorts around the country even before the temporary travel ban, and facilities are equipped with infrared thermometers and more hand sanitizers.

The safety of the public, especially our tourists and employees in the tourism sector, remains the priority of the Philippine government.

  
FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III  
Secretary  
Department of Health

  
BERNADETTE ROMULO-PUYAT  
Secretary  
Department of Tourism

  
EDUARDO M. AÑO  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
and Local Government

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