



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION  
SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE OF ABRA

August 25, 2022

Division Memorandum  
No. 234, s. 2022

**GUIDELINES ON THE PREVENTION OF COVID-19 AND  
OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN SCHOOLS FOR SY 2022-2023**

To: **Assistant Schools Division Superintendent**  
**Chief, Curriculum Implementation Division (CID)**  
**OIC - Chief, School Governance and Operations Division (SGOD)**  
**Education Program Supervisors**  
**All Public Schools District Supervisors**  
**All Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads**  
**All School Health Personnel**  
**All Others Concerned**

1. In the provision of learning opportunities, the health and safety of our learners, teaching and non-teaching personnel are of utmost importance and must be always protected. This memorandum is issued for the guidance of all learners, teachers, and non-teaching personnel division-wide pursuant to DepEd Order No 14 s. 2020 and DepEd Order No. 34 s. 2022.
2. In accordance to DOH Guidelines on the Risk-Based Public Health Standards for COVID-19 Mitigation (DOH AO No. 2020-0015) and consistent with the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan, the DepEd required health standards framework is mainly composed of four mitigation objectives:
  - a. Increase Physical and Mental Resilience
  - b. Reduce Transmission
  - c. Reduce Contact, and
  - d. Reduce Duration of Infection
3. The following are the specific standards:
  - A. Increase Physical and Mental Resilience**
    - a. Implementation of strict observance to physical distancing of at least 1 meter (3 feet).
    - b. Conduct of regular scheduled physical activities and exercises.
    - c. Conduct of regular handwashing activities.
    - d. Implementation of psychosocial activities like Psychosocial First Aid, Psychosocial Support Program, etc.
    - e. Establishment and maintenance of mental health and psychosocial support help lines.



**Address:** Actividad-Economia St., Zone 2 (Consiliman), Bangued, Abra  
**Telephone Nos.:** (074) 614-6918  
**Email Address:** abra@deped.gov.ph  
**Website:** <http://www.depedabra.com>



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- f. Schools shall seek the support of and partner with mental health associations or psychiatric societies in their respective areas to assist in ensuring the mental wellness of students, teachers, and non-teaching personnel.

**B. Reduce Transmission**

- a. Observance of regular hand hygiene (hand washing and use of alcohol-based disinfectants).
- b. Observance of cough and respiratory etiquette.
- c. Regular sanitation and disinfection of facilities and equipment.
- d. Use of Personal Protective Equipment. Face Mask should be shall be mandatory. A face shield maybe used in lieu of a face mask for activities requiring the entire face of an individual to be visible.
- e. Classroom doors and windows shall be opened for ventilation.

**C. Reduce Contact**

- a. Strict observance and implementation of physical distancing for at least one (1) meter.
- b. Large gatherings shall be limited to areas where physical distancing may be observed following the Local Government Units protocol for mass gathering.
- c. Learners, teaching, and non-teaching personnel are strictly prohibited from eating together while facing one another. If there is a lack of space in the classroom or school premises to allow distancing during meals, eating shall be done in a manner where all individuals face in one direction and do not talk while their masks are off.

**D. Reduce Duration**

- a. In order to reduce the duration of infection, early detection and isolation of symptomatic individuals must be ensured in all schools.
- b. Schools shall have an infection control plan and containment strategy that is ready to be implemented in the event of the spread of COVID-19 or other infectious diseases within their premise.
- c. Orientation of the General Parent Teacher Association will be conducted related to COVID-19 prevention and control.
- d. Triaging must be observed to learners, personnel and visitors going to school. Screening and monitoring shall be done using Health Declaration and Monitoring Tools.
- e. In the event of a case detection in the school, the Preventive Alert System in Schools (PASS) shall be activated. The SDO shall be informed of cases and suspension of classes due to an Infection. Systemic Disinfection will be done.
- f. Schools shall not be held liable should any learner or personnel turn COVID-19 positive. There is no need for parents or guardians to sign a waiver for this item. Likewise, no parent's or guardian's consent shall be required for a learner to resume 5 days in-person classes.



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- g. **Learners who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 shall be immediately excused from in-person classes and shall shift to distance learning. This shall only be required of those who feel well enough to answer modules or participate in online classes but are in the home or facility isolation. This provision excludes learners who are admitted to hospitals. To prevent learners with symptoms similar to COVID-19 from going to school, parents are highly encouraged to monitor and report the health status of their children to the school, through the class adviser, and appropriate authorities.**
- h. Preventive Alert System in Schools (PASS) should be activated and School Personnel shall cooperate and assist with the Rural Health Units in the conduct of Contact Tracing of Confirmed, Suspected Probable and Close Contact Cases in the school.
- i. The school shall follow their respective LGU protocols and the DepEd School Contingency Plan Manual in the implementation of quarantining and isolation of learners and personnel.
- j. Schools shall coordinate with the DOH/RHU for counselling on the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination of the family of an unvaccinated learner and implement mobile vaccinations for those who sign a written consent to be vaccinate.
4. For more information, please contact Dr. Apolinar L. Turqueza, Medical Officer III at +639175346892 or email us at schoolhealthabra@gmail.com.
5. For immediate dissemination and compliance.

**BENILDA M. DAYTACA EdD, CESO V**  
Schools Division Superintendent

Enc./s: None

Reference: DepEd Order No. 14, s. 2020  
DOH AO No. 2020-0015  
DepEd Order No. 71, s. 2021  
DepEd Order No. 30, s. 2022  
DepEd Order No. 017, s. 2022  
DepEd-DOH JMC No. 001, s. 2022

SGOD-SH-MDNS



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