



JUL 16 2020

MEMORANDUM
No. 64, s. 2020

TO : ALL MEMBERS OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCILS AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL LEVELS AND BARANGAY DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, HEADS OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PRIVATE SECTOR, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

SUBJECT : 2020 Brigada Eskwela and Oplan Balik Eskwela: Bayanihan Para sa Paaralan

To effectively response to the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent its spread among learners and teachers, the government has implemented quarantine measures that affected the country's educational system. Based on Department of Education Memorandum Order 07 s 2020, the opening of School Year (SY) 2020-2021 is on August 24, 2020. Consequently, the school opening does not necessarily mean traditional face-to-face learning in classroom. The physical opening of schools depends on the prevailing local risk classification and local community guidelines, pursuant to guidelines of the Department of Health (DOH), the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), or the Office of the President (OP).

To ensure that the health and safety of learners and school personnel are prioritized, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council issues this memorandum to support and assist the conduct of the **2020 Brigada Eskwela (BE) and Oplan Balik Eskwela (OBE)** with the slogan **Bayanihan sa Paaralan** that highlights the application of knowledge and convergence of efforts. The activity is spearheaded by DepEd and schools in partnership with other government and non-government agencies. The new concept of Brigada Eskwela is focused on the preparations and strengthening of partnership engagements to ensure that learning continues even during the health crisis (DepEd Memo 53 s 2020).

Therefore, the National, Regional, Provincial, City and Municipal DRRM Councils and Barangay DRRM Committees, partner CSOs, NGOs and Private Sector are hereby encouraged to support and assist the 2020 Brigada Eskwela and Oplan Balik Eskwela, known of this, the following should be observed in all schools:

- a. Usage of thermal scanners.
- b. Installation of handwashing facilities or provision of hand sanitizing materials, such as rubbing alcohol, anti-bacterial or germicidal soap.

- c. Regular disinfection and sanitation of classrooms and other school facilities. The use of disinfectants such as spray tank, disinfectant spray or disinfecting bleach, foot bath must strictly be in accordance to FDA approved guidelines.
- d. Practice of respiratory etiquette. Use of tissue or the inner portion of the elbow to cover the nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing. Practice proper disposal of used tissue.
- e. The use of face mask must be strictly observed: cloth face mask may be used by the general public and surgical mask/ medical-grade mask for individuals with flu-like symptoms and with other underlying conditions.
- f. Practice physical distancing of at least 1 meter apart.
- g. Printing and posting of IEC materials for COVID-19 risk mitigation measures from official sources such as the Department of Health.


Should Oplan and Brigada Eskwela activities require face-to-face engagement, it shall strictly comply with protocols on physical distancing and implement precautionary measures consistent with the IATF health protocols, DOH protection protocols, local quarantine rules and other relevant issuances.

Further, the Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education in partnership with N/R/LDRRMC member agencies are advised to undertake the following measures in preparation for other hazards beyond COVID-19 in schools such as tropical cyclones, flooding, earthquake, fire and others:

1. Reinforcement of School's DRRM Committee or Disaster Control Group to ensure health and safety protocols are in placed.
2. Review and updating of Public Service Continuity Plans and Contingency Plans
The policy guidance must integrate DOH Guidelines on Risk Based Public Health Standards for COVID-19 Mitigation as a guidance for planning on the implementation of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) as minimum public health standards to mitigate the threat of COVID-19.

For information and guidance.

For the Chairperson, NDRRMC:


USEC RICARDO B. JALAD
Executive Director, NDRRMC and
Administrator, OCD

