Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region VI – Western Visayas
DIVISION OF AKLAN
Arch. Gabriel M. Reyes Street, Kalibo, Aklan

19 June 2019

The Chief Education Supervisors
The Education Program Supervisors/Coordinators
The Public Schools District Supervisors
The Senior/Education Program Specialists
The Public Elementary, Secondary and Integrated School Heads
The Schools Division Office Unit/Section Heads
Others concerned

Sirs/Mesdames:

Greetings!

Please find attached Joint Regional Memorandum Circular (JRMC) No. 2019-01 re Conduct of School-Based Immunization for School Year 2019-2020 in Western Visayas.

For your information, guidance and compliance.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Dr. SALVADOR O. OCHAVO,Jr.,CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent

Division Letter
No. 75, s. 2019
/mtr

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – CHD WESTERN VISAYAS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – REGIONAL OFFICE VI

Joint Regional Memorandum Circular (JRMC) No. 2019-01

May 27, 2019

TO: **All Department of Health-CHD Western Visayas Divisions Heads, Provincial DOH Officers, Medical Center Chiefs, Chiefs of Hospitals, Provincial/City Health Officers, Department of Education-Regional Office VI Division Heads, Schools Division Superintendents, Division Health Officers and Personnel, School Heads, and All Concerned Agencies and Institutions**

SUBJECT: **CONDUCT OF SCHOOL-BASED IMMUNIZATION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020 IN WESTERN VISAYAS**

I. RATIONALE

In February 2019, the Department of Health-CHD Western Visayas, in collaboration with the local government units, implemented a region-wide measles outbreak response immunization (ORI) activity to respond to the increasing measles cases in the whole region. The ORI followed a mixed method strategy targeting 6-59 months old children, Grade1 and Grade 7 school-learners, and high-risk adult populations in order to strategically interrupt the ongoing measles virus transmission.

To harmonize the nationwide outbreak response operations, the Department of Health and the Department of Education issued various policies such as the national Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 1 series of 2019 *(Measles Outbreak Response and Prevention of Transmission in Schools)* and the DepEd Memorandum dated May 9, 2019 *(Advisory on the Continuation of Measles Outbreak Vaccination and Implementation of the SBIP)* that outlined necessary technical interventions to be implemented by various agencies to prevent the ongoing measles virus transmission among vulnerable children and school learners.

As such, the Department of Health- CHD Western Visayas, in collaboration with the Department of Education- Region VI, and implementing partner local government units, shall be undertaking coordinated vaccination response activities and preventive measures to address the current public health threat in the region.

II. OBJECTIVES

This Joint Regional Memorandum Circular aims to harmonize the regionwide implementation of School-Based Immunization for School Year 2019-2020 in Western Visayas.

Specifically, it seeks to:

a. Provide technical and operational directions in the implementation of the School Year 2019-2020 School-based Immunization services for targeted learners; and
b. Align various departmental roles of concerned agencies and implementing partners in the course of school-based immunization operations in the region;

III. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

This regional policy shall cover **all public schools in Western Visayas**.

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. Fully Vaccinated Target Learner for Measles Containing Vaccine (MCV) – *refers to any Kinder to Grade 6 learner who, after review for vaccination status, has received at least two doses of MCV.*
2. Incomplete Measles Vaccination – *status of having received one (1) dose of measles-containing vaccine in the past.*
3. Incompletely Vaccinated Target Learner for Measles Containing Vaccine (MCV) – *refers to any Kinder to Grade 6 learner who, after review for vaccination status, has no history of measles vaccination or has incomplete measles vaccination.*
4. Measles Case – *refers to any person any person, presenting signs and symptoms of fever and rash, with at least one of the following: (i) cough; (ii) coryza or runny nose; (iii) conjunctivitis or red eyes.*

5. Measles Containing Vaccine (MCV) – *a vaccine containing live, attenuated measles virus either as monovalent vaccine or combined with one or more of rubella, mumps and varicella (e.g. Measles only, MMR, MR).*
6. Outbreak Response Immunization (ORI) – *refers to a series of coordinated vaccination activities designed to interrupt the disease spread in a specified population, area, and time.*

V. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Kinder to Grade 7 learners enrolled in public schools of Western Visayas for School Year 2019-2020 shall be the priority targets for MCV vaccination.
2. All Kinder to Grade 6 learners shall be reviewed for their vaccination status of at least two (2) doses of MCV. History of MCV vaccination shall include documented routine vaccination at the government health center or private clinic, Supplemental Immunization Activities (SIA), or Outbreak Response Immunization (ORI).
3. Those Kinder to Grade 6 learners who are incompletely vaccinated for MCV shall be given one (1) dose of MCV. However, those who are Fully Vaccinated for MCV, shall NO longer need to receive a dose of MCV vaccine during the campaign.
4. All Grade 7 learners shall be given one (1) dose of MCV, regardless of their vaccination status.
5. Proper health advocacy shall be provided to parents/guardians, and informed consent shall be secured prior to the vaccination activity.
6. Conduct of the school-based MCV vaccination campaign shall be implemented from June-September 2019, while ensuring at least 95% vaccination coverage of all eligible learners.
7. Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) or Tetanus-diphtheria Vaccine (Td) shall also be given simultaneously with MCV, to specified target learners.

VI. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

1. Advocacy, Review of Vaccination Status, and Masterlisting

a. Teachers, School Clinic staff, and DepEd health personnel, shall facilitate the availability of vaccination records of all Kinder to Grade 6 learners *(e.g. vaccination cards, school health records, etc)*, and shall conduct the review of vaccination status of learners to determine which learners will be eligible to receive the MCV vaccines.
b. Those Kinder to Grade 6 learners who, after review of vaccination status, have no history of measles vaccination or have incomplete measles vaccination, shall be considered as eligible learners for MCV vaccination, and shall be included in the master list of learners to be vaccinated *(see attached Masterlisting Forms)*.
c. LGU health personnel, in coordination with the school's administration and DepEd health personnel, shall provide necessary advocacy support *(e.g. lectures during PTA meetings/assemblies, etc.)* to ensure proper understanding of learners and parents/guardians regarding the importance and benefits of the school-based vaccination.
d. Teachers, School Clinic staff, and DepEd health personnel shall support in the advocacy dissemination and inform learners and their parents/guardians regarding the school-based immunization activities. Concerned DepEd personnel shall likewise distribute and retrieve all informed consent forms for the vaccination services.
e. Only those eligible learners with signed informed consent forms that indicates willingness of their parents/guardians to receive the vaccination services shall be vaccinated.

2. Administration of MCV, Td, and HPV Vaccines during the School-based Immunization

a. Prior to the vaccination, health workers either from DepEd or from the LGUs, shall do a quick health screening/assessment of eligible learners to ensure that they are well, and have no contraindications for MCV vaccination.
b. Learners who have serious illness, or have a known history of allergic reactions to a previous dose of MCV, shall be initially deferred for vaccination, and shall be referred to a physician or the nearest health center for further assessment
c. Teachers, School Clinic staff, and DepEd health personnel, shall coordinate with their respective LGU health workers for any case of adverse events following immunization. All adverse events following immunization shall be reported immediately to the nearest health centers/hospitals.
d. Tetanus-diphtheria vaccine (Td) and Human Papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) shall likewise be administered to target learners following the DOH-DepEd implementing guidelines stipulated in DOH Department Memorandum 2015-0146 *(Guidelines in the Implementation of School-based Immunization)*, and other related-policy issuances. Provision of HPV vaccines is only applicable in selected implementing provinces/cities: Iloilo Province including Passi City, Negros Occidental including component City Divisions, Iloilo City, Bacolod City, and Province of Antique. (*see Table 1*)

Table 1: Summary of Vaccination Administration Protocol for School-based Immunization, SY 2019-2020

Targeted Learners	Measles-Containing Vaccine (MCV) 1 dose, 0.5mL, Subcutaneous *(Vaccinate Site: Right Upper Arm)*	Tetanus-diphtheria Vaccine (Td) 1 dose, 0.5mL, Intramuscular *(Vaccinate Site: Left Upper Arm)*	Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) 1 dose, 0.5mL, Intramuscular For females, 9-14 years old *(Vaccinate Site: Left Upper Arm)*
Grade 1	✓ *(if with zero (0) previous MCV received)*	✓	
Kinder, Grades 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6	✓ *(if with zero (0) previous MCV received)*		
Grade 4	✓ *(if with zero (0) previous MCV received)*		** ✓ (for females only)
Grade 7	✓	✓	

✓ –*provide the needed vaccine*

***2nd doses of HPV vaccines must be given to target learners 6 months after they received their 1st HPV vaccine doses. Two doses of HPV vaccine are needed to provide FULL protection against common invasive serotypes of the human papillomavirus that causes cervical cancer.*

VII. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The **Department of Health- CHD Western Visayas** shall undertake the following responsibilities in implementing the school-based immunization services, at its own cost to wit:

a. act as the over-all lead agency in implementing the school-based vaccination services, including the development of necessary technical guidelines, support to the implementation of the JRMC, and provision of vaccine logistics;
b. provide necessary technical support to all concerned Provincial/City Health Offices and local government units implementing the school-based immunization;
c. coordinate and involve all concerned partner agencies and provincial/city LGUs, in the planning, coordination, and timely implementation of the activities;
d. facilitate the timely distribution of vaccines, syringes, and other necessary vaccination logistics to Provincial/City Health Offices;
e. develop necessary communication plans and other relevant materials to facilitate in the conduct of school advocacies;
f. oversee the conduct of active surveillance and timely response to all adverse events following immunization *(AEFIs)*;
g. conduct monitoring, evaluation, and supervision in all levels to ensure the smooth implementation of the school-based immunization services.

The **Department of Education- Regional Office VI**, as partner agency in the full implementation of all school-based immunization services, shall likewise undertake the following roles and responsibilities, at its own cost, to wit:

a. collaborate with DOH-CHD Western Visayas in the implementation of the JRMC;
b. participate in the planning, coordination, and provide full-support to DOH and its LGU implementing arm, in the operationalization of the school-based immunization;
c. issue necessary policies and relevant memoranda addressed to all concerned departments heads from Regional Office through Education Support Services Division (ESSD)/Regional Health and Nutrition Unit, Schools Division Offices (SDOs) through School Governance Operation Division (SGOD)/School Health Section and School administration with regards to the school-based immunization activities;
d. provide necessary support to ensure the full participation of concerned departments heads from Regional Office through Education Support Services Division (ESSD)/Regional Health and Nutrition Unit, Schools Division Offices (SDOs) through School Governance Operation Division (SGOD)/School Health Section and School administration in all relevant meetings and operations with regards to implementation of the school-based immunization;
e. provide support in the reproduction, distribution, and retrieval of signed informed consents to facilitate the identification of learners eligible for vaccination, conduct review of vaccination status for Kinder to Grade 6 learners, accomplish the master list of eligible learners for vaccination, and assist vaccinators during the immunization schedules;
f. through all its participating public schools, provide DOH and the LGU implementing arm, the properly filled-up master list of eligible learners for vaccination, pursuant to the guidelines on proper review of vaccination

status and health screening as stipulated in this Joint Regional Memorandum Circular No. 2019-01 *(Conduct of School-Based Immunization for School Year 2019-2020 in Western Visayas)*.

g. shall likewise ensure that all participating public schools will facilitate the information dissemination and organization of advocacy activities so that the parents/guardians of targets learners are well-informed regarding the vaccine-preventable diseases and the ongoing school-based immunization services;

h. deploy its Health personnel to all participating public schools to provide field operation support *(e.g. advocacy; on-site orientation of teachers; review of vaccination status, consent retrieval, coordination, referral, monitoring, etc)*.

VIII. DATA PRIVACY

Any necessary personal and sensitive information shall be gathered with the consent of the data subject, declared, specified, and used for legitimate purposes in relation to the activity and appropriately protected in consonance with Republic Act 10173 or the Data Privacy Act. Only authorized personnel of the Parties shall have access to any personal and sensitive data/information gathered. All personal and sensitive data/information shall be stored, processed, and disposed of in accordance with applicable laws.

IX. EFFECTIVITY

This Joint Regional Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force unless otherwise repealed/amended.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CHD-Western Visayas

MARLYN W. CONVOCAR, MD, MPH, CESO III
Regional Director

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Regional Office VI

VICTOR G. DE GRACIA JR., CESO V
OIC-Office of the Regional Director