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Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim

DepEd Task Force COVID-19
MEMORANDUM No. 034
11 April 2020

For: **Regional Directors**
Schools Division Superintendents
Chiefs, ESSDs, CAOs, SGODs and AO5s
Principals, Schools Heads, and Teachers-in-Charge
DepEd Central Office Task Force COVID-19
All Others Concerned

Subject: **DISCONTINUANCE OF SPRAYING OR MISTING**
DISINFECTANTS AND THE USE OF DISINFECTION
BOOTHES OR SANITENTS

The DepEd Task Force COVID-19 hereby enjoins all DepEd schools and offices to **immediately discontinue spraying or misting disinfectants, including the use of disinfection booths or sanitents**, following warnings of the Department of Health (DOH) and the World Health Organization (WHO) against such practices.

The DOH, in a Facebook announcement on April 10, 2020, says that it does not recommend spraying or misting as these do not protect against COVID-19, and “may even cause harm” and that “everyone should NOT spray or mist disinfectants at this time” but **instead “soak objects completely or disinfect surfaces directly to kill the virus.”** In a follow-up announcement, the DOH clarifies that **“to kill the virus, objects and surfaces have to be wiped directly with 0.5% sodium hypochlorite/ bleach solution (1:10 solution).”**

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The DOH says that “there is no evidence to support that spraying of surfaces or large-scale misting of areas, indoor or outdoor with disinfecting agents, kills the virus. The DOH adds that “spraying has an additional health and safety concern as it can: (1) cause pathogens to be dispersed further from direct application of a spray; (2) result to skin irritation or inhalation of chemicals and subsequent development of respiratory side effects; and (3) may also cause environmental pollution.”

Similarly, the WHO Philippines clarified on April 10, 2020 that spraying or misting alcohol, chlorine, or other chemicals, similar to those in disinfection



Office of the Undersecretary for Administration (OUA)

[Administrative Service (AS), Information and Communications Technology Service (ICTS), Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS), Bureau of Learner Support Services (BLSS), Baguio Teachers' Camp (BTC), Central Security & Safety Office (CSSO)]

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booths, does not kill viruses that have already gotten inside the body. The WHO Philippines adds that spraying or misting said chemicals can even damage clothes or one's "mucous membranes" (in the eyes, mouth, and respiratory system).

The WHO Philippines clarifies, however, that **alcohol, chlorine, and other chemicals can be still be used to disinfect objects based on approved recommendations.**

The WHO Philippines further adds that **physical distancing, frequent handwashing, and avoiding touching the eyes, nose, and mouth, remain to be the effective measures against contracting the virus.**

All decision makers across all governance levels are reminded to base all decisions and plans on available evidence and recommendations from trusted health experts and authorities.

For widest dissemination and compliance.



ALAIN DEL B. PASCUA

Undersecretary

Chairperson, DepEd Task Force COVID-19



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