





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY
GOVERNANCE AND FIELD OPERATIONS

OUGFO No. 2022-03-024

MEMORANDUM

15 August 2022

TO: **REGIONAL DIRECTORS**
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS

FROM: 
ATTY. REVSEE A. ESCOBEDO 
Undersecretary
Governance and Field Operations

SUBJECT: **Strengthening School Health Support for SY 2022-2023**

In view of the upcoming full resumption of face-to-face classes in the basic education sector, Regional Directors and Schools Division Superintendents are enjoined to provide their full support to their respective School Health and Nutrition (SHN) personnel in initiating/participating in/continuing their roles in the following:

1. Monitoring and inspection of the health and safety preparations for the opening of classes

All regional and division School Health and Nutrition (SHN) units are enjoined to initiate/participate in monitoring and inspection activities to check on the health-related preparations of schools for the opening of classes, guided by the mechanisms and standards, particularly on health and safety protocols during the 5-day in-person classes, as provided for by **DepEd Order No. 34, s. 2022** titled *School Calendar and Activities for the School Year 2022-2023*, and/or any subsequent issuances.

This shall also include inspection of health facilities in schools such as handwashing and other WINS facilities, health corners, medical/dental clinics.

The Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health Division (BLSS-SHD) will generate status reports on the schools' health and safety preparations prior to planned full resumption of classes on November 2, 2022. Thus, all SHN personnel are encouraged to cover as many schools as possible up to October 28, 2022.

2. Providing health and referral services, including PFA and MHPSS, to teaching and non-teaching personnel and learners

3. COVID-19 response and participation in vaccination campaign

This shall include continued coordination with LGU counterparts, submission of reports on COVID-19 cases/vaccination data, and amplifying vaccination campaign initiatives.

4. Management of school health programs under *OK sa DepEd*

SHN personnel shall continue to implement activities under the flagship and support programs of *OK sa DepEd* guided by issuances from BLSS-SHD particular to such programs and/or activities. For reference, attached is an overview of expected national activities for *OK sa DepEd*. (**Annex A**)

5. Conduct of health and nutrition promotion and advocacy activities

6. Providing necessary technical assistance to schools in any matter mentioned above and related topics on the implementation of *OK sa DepEd* programs.

For questions and concerns, please contact **Dr. Maria Corazon C. Dumlao**, Chief, BLSS-SHD, through (02) 8-632-9935 or email at blss.shd@deped.gov.ph.

Annex A

Overview of *OK sa DepEd* Activities for SY 2022-2023

For the guidance of school health and nutrition personnel across all governance levels particularly in their coordination with offices concerned, the Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health Division (BLSS-SHD) provides this overview of the *Oplan Kalusugan sa DepEd (OK sa DepEd)* activities for SY 2022-2023 as summarized below:

Dates	Activity
August 15 to October 28, 2022	Monitoring and inspection of the health and safety preparations for the opening of classes (including submission of reports)
September 26-28, 2022	National Kickoff of <i>OK sa DepEd</i> for SY 2022-2023
September - October	Regional/Division Kickoff of <i>OK sa DepEd</i> for SY 2022-2023
October 31-November 4, 2022	School-Based One Health Week
All-year	Sustaining the Activities of <i>OK sa DepEd</i> Flagship Programs throughout the School Calendar
September - November	BLSS Monitoring of <i>OK sa DepEd</i> Programs, particularly Medical and Dental Clinics under the School Dental Health Care Program (SDHCP), WASH in Schools (WinS) Program, and School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP)

1. National Kickoff of *OK sa DepEd* for SY 2022-2023

- a. Enclosure No. 2 to DO 34, s. 2022 mentions "*Oplan Kalusugan sa DepEd*" in the month of September (TBA) for the Monthly School Calendar of Activities for SY 2022-2023.
- b. Given that co-curricular activities shall not be held until after the quarter examinations, as stipulated in DO 34, s. 2022, the **conduct of the *OK sa DepEd One Health Week* (per DO 28, s. 2018) shall be moved to the 11th week of the first quarter.** (More details in Item No. 3 of this Annex.)
- c. As such, the *OK sa DepEd* activity in September shall pertain to the **National Kickoff** that will be held on **September 27, 2022** (exclusive of travel time and pre-event and post-event activities).
- d. The National Kickoff shall serve as the venue to provide updates and directions on the implementation of *OK sa DepEd* for the school year, as well as to showcase the selected practices of the regions as well as partnership opportunities for school health.
- e. Expected participants in the National Kickoff are representatives from the Regional Office including ESSD Chiefs and Regional SHN Personnel. A separate issuance will be issued to provide more details.

2. Regional/Division Kickoff of OK sa DepEd for SY 2022-2023

- a. Between the National Kickoff in September and the school-based *One Health Week* in November, Regions and Divisions may conduct their respective regional and/or division kickoff ceremonies to launch local directives and opportunities for *OK sa DepEd* and its flagship programs.
- b. Classes shall not be interrupted during the conduct of the said local kickoffs.

3. School-Based One Health Week

- a. The week after the quarter examinations when co-curricular activities may be held in schools—October 31-November 4, 2022—coincides with the date when all schools are expected to have already transitioned to full face-to-face classes—November 2, 2022.
- b. Given this, the *One Health Week* that will take place during that week shall focus on how *OK sa DepEd* and its flagship programs ensure that DepEd schools are “healthy learning institutions” for the health, safety, and well-being of learners, amid the pandemic and beyond.
- c. Given that November 1 is a non-working holiday, in-person activities for the One Health Week shall be primarily on November 2-4, 2022, while virtual and home-based activities may be done on October 31 and November 1. Activities on November 1 shall be those that encourage learners to spend a healthy time with their families.
- d. A separate issuance will be released providing guidance on the recommended activities during the *One Health Week*, including the theme for the week-long celebration.

4. Sustaining the Activities of OK sa DepEd Flagship Programs throughout the School Calendar

Activities showcased during the *One Health Week* shall be sustained throughout the school year, guided by existing issuances per program and guidelines on the conduct of such activities.

5. BLSS Monitoring of OK sa DepEd Programs, particularly medical and dental clinics under the SDHCP, WinS Program, and SBFP

- a. Monitoring of *OK sa DepEd* programs, particularly the SDHCP and the SBFP, which started during the last quarter of 2021 shall continue to cover the remaining regions that still need to be visited.
- b. Focal persons at the Central Office directly coordinate with the regions to be visited for the details and necessary preparations.

Funding for the conduct of *OK sa DepEd* activities coordinated by the ROs and the SDOs for SY 2022-2023, including the regional/division kickoff and the simultaneous monitoring activities may be sourced from the program support funds downloaded to the regions, with

guidelines in the **OUA Memorandum** dated June 2, 2022 titled *Guidelines on the Utilization of the Downloaded Program Support Funds for the Implementation of OK sa DepEd*.

For questions and concerns regarding BLSS-coordinated monitoring activities, please contact Dr. Cynthia D. Coronado, Dentist III, (for SDHCP monitoring), or Ms. Magdalene Portia T. Cariaga, Senior Education Program Specialist, (for SBFP monitoring), through (02) 8-632-9935 or email at blss.shd@deped.gov.ph

For questions and concerns about *OK sa DepEd* activities, please contact Gian Erik M. Adao, Education Program Specialist II, or Belinda C. Beltran, Nutritionist-Dietitian III, BLSS-SHD, through the same contact information above.