



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VI – WESTERN VISAYAS
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF AKLAN

January 5, 2022

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 27, s. 2022

**CLARIFICATIONS ON THE USE OF FOOTBATHS, SNEEZE GUARDS, AND
AIR PURIFIERS RELATIVE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LIMITED FACE-
TO-FACE CLASSES**

**To: Office of the Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Heads of Public Elementary/Integrated/Secondary Schools
All others concerned**

1. In relation to the implementation of limited face-to-face classes, schools are advised to comply with the School Safety Assessment Tool (SSAT). This office clarifies concerns from the field on the use of footbaths, sneeze guards (acrylic plastic sheets), and air purifiers.
2. With regard to the use of footbaths, AO No. 2021-0043 titled "*Omnibus Guidelines on the Minimum Public Health Standards for the Safe Reopening of Institutions*", Section VI. Implementing Mechanism paragraph number A.1.d.v provides:
 - v. *Footbaths are not recommended.*
3. Further, according to DepEd Task Force COVID-19 MEMORANDUM No. 464 titled "*Reiteration of Corresponding Work-Related Guidelines Per Community Quarantine Classification and Ensuring Observance of Strict Health Measures in Work Settings in View of The Threat of The Delta Variant Transmission*", the following practices shall be discontinued due to low or very low quality of evidence to prevent or control COVID-19 transmission:



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- a. *Use of UV lamps or other UV devices in any place outside of a controlled clinic or hospital setting;*
 - b. *Use of misting tents or disinfection chambers;*
 - c. *Use of footbaths; and*
 - d. *Use of ionizing air purifier.*
4. Relative to the use of sneeze guards, AO No. 2021-0043 titled “*Omnibus Guidelines on the Minimum Public Health Standards for the Safe Reopening of Institutions*”, Section VI. Implementing Mechanism paragraph number A.1.a. provides:
 - a. *Maintain physical distancing or spacing through the installation of physical barriers in enclosed areas where physical distancing may be compromised, i.e. sneeze guards (Acrylic Plastic Sheets), fixed glass panels, theater ropes and stanchions, hazard warning tape, etc.*
5. Furthermore, with regard to the use of air purifiers, the Department of Education (DepEd) and Department of Health (DOH) Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01, s. 2021 titled “*Operational Guidelines on the Implementation of Limited Face-to-Face Learning Modality*”, paragraph number 7.1.1.2.5.1 provides:

All classrooms must have working electric fans, and windows and doors shall be open at all times to maximize natural airflow. In air-conditioned spaces where ventilation is greatly recirculated or access to outside air is not feasible, filters such as high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration air purifiers can be used to clean recirculated air, provided that the unit is adequate for the size of the room in which it is installed. Proper maintenance should be ensured by following manufacturer recommendations of these devices.
6. Based on the above guidelines, therefore, schools shall discontinue the use of footbaths at entrances of schools and classrooms; sneeze guards or plastic barriers may be set-up in enclosed areas as one of the suggested means to maintain physical distancing or spacing; and, air purifiers may be used in air-conditioned spaces only.
7. Immediate dissemination of this memorandum is desired.


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