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April 22, 2021

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
OSDS-SGOD-DM-146s. 2021

COVID-19 Rapid Antibody Test Kits

TO : ASSISTANT SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT
Chiefs, SGOD and CID
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Elementary and Secondary School Heads
School Teaching and Non-Teaching Personnel

1. The Department of Education continues to aim and enhance the safety and precautionary measures for officials and employees. Thus, the Schools Division of Catanduanes, through the Office of the School Governance and Operations Division - School Health and Nutrition Unit will be adopting measures to prevent transmission of the virus in the workplace through the use of donated COVID-19 Rapid Antibody Test (RAT) Kits.
2. The DepED personnel who can take the test are those who are more-at-risk of contracting the COVID-19 infection. This includes the following:
 - DepED personnel with no symptoms but are close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases or suspected cases, and those who completed the 14-day quarantine period.
 - DepED personnel with travel history outside the Division or Region, or who are frequently conducting monitoring and inspection at various schools or district.
 - SDO Sections/Units with frequent visitors or clients, as identified by the Administrative Officer.
 - SDO Sections/Units with critical positions including but not limited to the SDS, ASDS, SGOD/CID Chiefs, EPS, PSDSs or School Heads.
 - Front liners which necessarily includes the health personnel, security guards and utility workers.
3. Only asymptomatic personnel are allowed to enter the SDO Clinic for their scheduled testing. All DepED employee to be tested must be screened and interviewed, and assessed by Nurse assigned in your areas and was referred to the Medical Officer prior to schedule of testing. Strict Health Protocols (facemask, social distancing, thermal scanning and disinfection) will be strictly observed in the testing area. (Please see attached Steps of COVID-19 Rapid Antibody Testing and Interpretation Guidelines).
4. The Medical Officer will be the one to review the test results and make the necessary evaluation, recommendation and referral once results turned positive.
5. For immediate dissemination and strict compliance.


SUSAN S. COLLANO
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION V
SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE OF CATANDUANES

Steps of SDO Catanduanes COVID-19 Rapid Antibody Testing

STEP 1. Inform your Nurse-In-Charge to your respective unit/section if you have flu-like symptoms and/or travel outside of the island.

STEP 2. Seek schedule from School Health and Nutrition Section for the Rapid Antigen Testing

STEP 3. Be in the SGOD – SHN Clinic twenty (20) minutes prior to scheduled time of test.

STEP 4. Fill up the Information Form and sign the Consent Form.

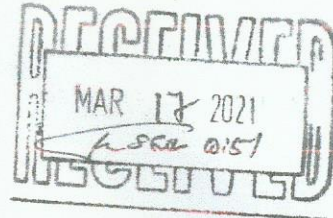
STEP 5. Conduct the Blood Extraction.

For interpretation of Suspected Cases:

1. If Rapid Antibody IgG (+) (Late infection) = no need to quarantine.
2. If Rapid Antibody IgM (+) (New infection)
 - a. Refer to RHU for further instructions and or workup.
 - b. If refer to private physician, possible of advice for Antigen testing on the 3rd day of symptoms. If positive (+), proceed to RT-PCR Testing.
3. Antibody Test for personnel about to return for work:
 - a. IgM (-) and IgG (+) = antibodies detected, ok to return to work (without symptoms)
 - b. IgM (+) and IgG (+) = refer to RHU for possible observation and/or advise extension of quarantine leave for another one (1) week.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
 REGION V - BICOL



Office of the Regional Director

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
 NO.

MAR 16 2021

RELEASED

MEMORANDUM

To : **OIC-Asst. Regional Director
 Chiefs, Functional and Support Divisions/ Section Heads
 Schools Division Superintendent
 Chiefs, SGOD
 School Health and Nutrition Personnel
 All others concerned**

From : 
GILBERT T. SADSAD
 Regional Director

Subject : **COVID-19 Rapid Antibody Test Kit**

Date : **March 9, 2021**

To sustain the agency's campaign of reinforcing the health, safety, and well-being of its personnel against the COVID-19 disease, the Regional Office adopted various measures to prevent the transmission of the virus in the workplace. Through use of the donated **COVID-19 Rapid Antibody Test (RAT) Kits**, this Office aims to further enhance the safety and precautionary measures for officials and employees and all its Schools Division Offices (SDOs).

The COVID-19 RAT qualitatively detects the presence of IgM and IgG antibodies against the COVID-19 virus in human serum, plasma and venous whole blood specimen for the auxiliary diagnosis of COVID-19 infection. However, it should not be used as a stand-alone test to definitively diagnose the presence of COVID-19 virus, as compared to the Real-time Reverse Transcription- Polymerase Chain Reaction (**RT-PCR**) test which remains to be the gold standard in determining whether a person is infected or infectious. Thus, to reiterate, the COVID-19 RAT cannot be used for screening for COVID-19 disease, mass testing, or self-testing.

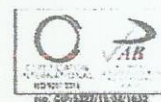
In view of this, the RO/SDOs may adopt its own scheme as to its usage of the donated test kits. The DepEd personnel who can take the test are those who are more at-risk of contracting the COVID-19 infection. This includes the following:

- DepEd personnel with no symptoms but are close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases, or persons classified as suspected cases, who have completed the 14-day quarantine period.



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- DepEd personnel who recently travelled outside the Division and Region, or who are frequently conducting monitoring and inspection at various schools and districts.
- RO/SDO Sections/Units with frequent visitors or clients, as identified by the Administrative Officer.
- RO/SDO Sections/Units or Schools with high prevalence rate of confirmed positive cases, as reported by its local Health Office or Local Government Unit (LGU).
- RO/SDO Sections/Units with critical positions including but not limited to RD.ARD, Functional Division Chiefs and Section Heads, SDS, ASDS, SGOD/CID Chiefs, PSDSs or School Heads.
- Front liners, which necessarily includes the health personnel, security guards and utility workers.

It is strongly advised that only asymptomatic personnel must be allowed to enter the RO/SDO clinic. All DepEd personnel to be tested must have been screened, interviewed, and assessed by the Medical Officer or Nurse-on-duty. They are required to wear a mask upon entry at the RO/SDO clinic and keep the mask on during the entire duration of their stay.

The Medical Officer or Nurse who saw the patient will review the test results and make the necessary evaluation, clinical correlation and recommendation unto the patient. Communication of the results with the patient (if needed) must be through teleconsultation, unless a face to face consultation is found necessary.

For information and guidance.

Reference No.: M- **020675**
ESSD/hnu/dokish



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