

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 23, 2009

Public schools open June 1 despite flu scare

Schools will open on June 1, 2009 despite the swine flu scare caused by a report confirming a positive infection on a 10-year old girl early Friday morning.

“In my consultation with (Health) Secretary (Francisco) Duque, he says that as of this time, classes may start as scheduled,” said Education Secretary Jesli Lapus.

Early this morning reports came out that a 10-year old girl who arrived from the US on May 19 was found positive of the flu virus.

Lapus assured the public that he is in close coordination with health officials and they committed to advise DepEd on this matter immediately.

“In fact, as of this (Friday) afternoon, I am told the child is on her way to recovery and may be released soon,” Lapus added.

Owing to the public’s concern on the possible effect of the swine flu scare with the opening of classes, DepEd published DepEd Memo 238 for to regional and division offices, and schools to implement an Anti-Influenza A(H1N1) campaign.

School health and nutrition personnel have been mobilized to disseminate information on the prevention and control of common diseases.

Lapus has instructed school officials to lead in maintaining sanitation in the school surroundings. DOH will also distribute to all regions and divisions some flip-charts and CDs on dengue.

In the recently concluded week long Brigada Eskwela, corporations, civic and non-government organizations and private individuals trooped to public schools and extended assistance in terms of manpower, and construction and cleaning materials.

DepEd runs the Brigada Eskwela campaign as part of providing children with a safe and disease free environment when they return to school in June.

Every beginning of the school year, DepEd also conducts the Oplan Balik Eskwela (OBE) campaign with the cooperation of both public and private institutions. On health and sanitation, DepEd partners with the Department of Health in preparation for the opening of classes.

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