For:  
Regional Directors  
Minister for Basic, Higher and Technical Education, BARMM  
Schools Division Superintendents  
Principals / School Heads  
All Others Concerned

Subject:  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION’S RESPONSE ON HEALTH PROBLEMS DUE TO CORONAVIRUS AND RE-EMERGENCE OF POLIO IN THE PHILIPPINES

In view of public health concerns brought about by the spread of novel coronavirus in China, parts of Asia, and the rest of the world, this Memorandum is issued to alert all school personnel and learners to take precautionary measures against the possible spread of the virus.

Coronavirus comes from a family of viruses that can cause various diseases characterized by cough and colds, fever, difficulty in breathing and shortness of breath that can lead to serious infections, pneumonia, acute respiratory syndrome, kidney problems and even death.

Accordingly, all are strictly advised to make handwashing a habit, to always cover one’s mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, to avoid close contact with people who show signs of respiratory illness, to drink plenty of water and ensure food are cooked properly, and to consult a health facility if symptoms of cough and colds persist.

Moreover, with the re-emergence of polio in the country—as confirmed by the Department of Health (DOH)—all government agencies, including the Department of Education, are urgently called upon to respond and address the polio outbreak.

DepEd reiterates the support needed by DOH to attain the outbreak response goal of immunizing children under 5 years old and to leave no child behind.
Towards this end, DepEd is expected to implement the following:

- Raise awareness about the outbreak, areas covered by mass immunization campaign and schedules;
- Promote correct information about polio and its lifelong and irreversible impact on children;
- Support health workers and volunteers in vaccinating ALL children especially those hard-to-reach;
- Create posts echoing the campaign’s key messages.

In the interest of everyone’s health and safety, all school officials are strictly enjoined to support measures, awareness, and initiatives against coronavirus and polio in the Philippines.

For dissemination and implementation.

ALAIN DEL R. PASCUA
Undersecretary