TESDA CIRCULAR

Subject: TVET Arrangements Towards the New Normal During the COVID-19 Crisis		Page 1 of 4 page/s Number _066_, series of 2020
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In line with the Revised and Amended Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines by the IATF for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF Resolution 38), and based on the results of discussions with the TVET associations and TESDA Regional Directors, and while awaiting the approval and clearance of the IATF-EID on the resumption of classes this June, the following guidelines are hereby issued to establish the necessary measures and protocols in the delivery of TVET towards the New Normal in response to the COVID-19 Crisis.

I. Implementation Arrangements

The global COVID 19 crisis has brought sudden impositions and pressures in the education sector disrupting on-going classes before the COVID 19 crisis and continuing lockdown in some areas for the next months. The inactivity during the lockdown, however, opened an avenue for the sector to adapt to more flexible and innovative delivery systems that would require technology innovations and business solutions. On the other hand, while online and virtual learning is the new normal in TVET, face-to-face learning is still mandatory for most of the TVET qualifications.

As TESDA intensifies its support to the national government's advocacy to the Food Security and Supply Chain, all related training programs, especially agri-related qualifications where physical/social distancing requirements can be practiced should be prioritized.

All actions to be taken by the institutions/training centers, public and private, in preparation for the resumption of classes, should be in accordance with the IATF-EID guidelines. More importantly, plans and actions should strictly follow the health protocols of the Department of Health. It is still advised to closely coordinate with the concerned LGUs for updated information on a daily basis and check other mitigation levels that are in place in the area. School operations may be adjusted accordingly.

The following measures shall be adopted based on the community quarantine level of the area:

Program/Activity	ECQ/MECQ	GCQ/MGCQ
Application for Scholarship	Online application through TESDA website and TESDA Mobile App	Online application through TESDA website and TESDA Mobile App
		Face-to-Face application can be done following the physical/social distancing requirements.

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Program/Activity	ECQ/MECQ	GCQ/MGCQ
Enrollment	No enrolment for areas under ECQ. Online enrolment for areas under MECQ	• Combination of face-to-face and online • Online application through the TESDA website and TESDA Mobile App • Submission of application and other requirements through email
Start of Classes	Strictly no classes are allowed under ECQ/MECQ (IATF Omnibus Guidelines on Community Quarantine, May 22, 2020). Schools are still closed. **Under MECQ, online classes can resume by June 2020. (Still subject for the approval and clearance of IATF-EID)**	TVIs/TTIs can resume training program implementation in areas placed under GCQ/MGCQ. **The earliest that the TVIs/TTIs can begin classes by June 2020. (Still subject for the approval and clearance of IATF-EID)**
Training Delivery Modalities	Strictly through asynchronous eLearning programs such as TESDA Online Program or other open-source online/offline training courses	• Face-to-face • Online/eLearning Programs • Blended Learning • Distance Learning Face-to-face classes shall be strictly prohibited until August 31, 2020 in GCQ areas (IATF Omnibus Guidelines on Community Quarantine, May 15,2020) Under GCQ areas, learners aged between 21-59 years old with no underlying medical condition are allowed to attend face-to-face training.

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Program/Activity	ECQ/MECQ	GCQ/MGCQ
National Competency Assessment	Processing and Issuance of NCs via online	Processing and Issuance of NCs via online Only for TM II - virtual and portfolio assessment. Portfolio Assessment for some qualifications. Under MGCQ, regular conduct of assessment is allowed subject to strict physical and social distancing and LGU guidelines.

II. Implementation Mechanics

Upon resumption of classes, the following protocols shall be observed by all institutions offering TVET:

A. Training Protocols

1. It is mandatory that all trainees/scholars, trainers, and all TVI personnel undergo the module available at the TESDA Online Program titled "Practicing Covid 19 Preventive Measures in the Workplace". It can also be accessed offline via downloaded presentation applications.
2. For face-to-face training, all TVIs should strictly follow the implementation of physical distancing requirements of 3 feet or 1 meter between the learners/scholars per DOH Administrative Order 2020-015. TVIs may consider placing temporary barriers (plastic dividers, cubicles, etc).
3. Under the competency-based training delivery, modular learning is being followed where workshops/laboratories are designed and arranged per module. The institution should strictly follow the limited number of learners/scholars per workshop area and still compliant with the physical distancing requirements.
4. All TVIs are not required to re-register the programs that will adopt flexible learning delivery modes, as long as they operate under its existing authorization through the issued CTPRs.
5. To implement flexible learning delivery modes (online, blended, or distance learning), the institution has to seek the approval from the concerned Regional Director. A separate set of guidelines will be issued on the Implementing Flexible Learning in TVET.
6. For Community-based training delivery, the physical distancing of 3 feet or 1 meter should be strictly followed. The conduct of training should be closely coordinated with the LGU/barangay for clearance.

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7. For Dual Training System and Enterprise-Based Training, in-plant training can resume depending on the partner company as well as the allowed sectors to operate per quarantine phase based on the industry categories indicated in the omnibus guidelines.
8. Training Schedule and Training Plan shall be submitted to the PO/RO for approval and monitoring purposes, especially for scholarship programs.

B. Administrative Protocols

To contain/reduce the risk of transmission of the virus, the following protocols should be strictly observed:

1. Adopt effective practices/strategies to ensure compliance to social and physical distancing among the staff and learners. Restrict mixing between groups.
2. Use of health personal protective equipment by all employees and learners/scholars at all times. These are face masks, protective goggles, gloves, protective shields, sanitizer.
3. Regular disinfection and sanitation of all workstations, workshops and laboratories, rooms and buildings.
4. Placement of sanitizers and alcohol-based dispensers in entrances of the training facility - classrooms and workshop areas/laboratory.
5. Placement of disinfection footbath in buildings and room entrances.
6. Provision of no-touch/digital thermometer/thermal scanner at the main entrance.
7. Persons with high temperatures and/or flu-like symptoms shall not be allowed to enter the building premises.

Implementation arrangements, mechanics and protocols shall be reviewed regularly by the TESDA Crisis Management Committee to ensure compliance to the updated guidelines set by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID).

Wide dissemination of this Circular to all concerned is hereby enjoined.

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