

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL REGION VII
REGIONAL NUTRITION CLUSTER

Date : **11 May 2020**
To : **All Local Nutrition Clusters in the Central Visayas**
Subject: **COVID 19 Advisory No. 5 S. 2020**

As Central Visayas continues to implement provisions of the Presidential Proclamation No. 922 and No. 929 which declared the Philippines under a state of public health emergency and in the state of calamity respectively, and with community quarantine in place in all provinces in the region, food and nutrition insecurity has become indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In support of the previously published Central Visayas Regional Nutrition Cluster Advisories 1-4, the cluster has also recognized the need to remind local nutrition committees, especially local nutrition action officers (NAO) and district, city and municipal nutrition program coordinators (D/C/MNPCs) of their roles to in COVID-19 response and recovery.

Hence, the cluster is reminding all NAOs and D/C/MNPCs of their roles as follows in nutrition in emergencies.

1. Rapid Nutrition Assessment and Monitoring
 - a. Local Nutrition Action Officers
 - i. Include nutrition cluster reports in LDDRM Meetings
 - ii. Recommend action points for cluster members to address gaps
 - iii. Prod LCE/SB to act upon action points that need ordinances/ resolutions using RNA results
 - iv. Ensure resources for the activities
 - b. D/C/M Nutrition Program Coordinators
 - i. Conduct refresh training/orientation to BNSs and BHWs re MUAC taking and other RNA activities
 - ii. Serve as IMO: Prepare and submit report o include the following:
 1. 4Ws – weekly
 2. SAM & MAM update – weekly
 3. Isolation facility status - weekly
 4. Commodity inventory – monthly
 5. Best practice – monthly
 - iii. Identify gaps from reports

2. Food and Nutrition Security

a. Local Nutrition Action Officers

- i. Push for local policy for food and nutrition security
- ii. Lobby support for the food cluster
- iii. Facilitate procurement of supplementary and complementary foods
- iv. Coordinate with heads of office to ensure better quality food packs
- v. Provide technical assistance for food sector on healthier food pack items
- vi. Facilitate prioritization of better and quality food packs in nutritionally depressed areas
- vii. Suggest utilization of farmers' associations' produce
- viii. If in GCQ, push for livelihood activities for those who have lost jobs

b. D/C/M Nutrition Program Coordinators

- i. Coach BNSs in using local agricultural resources to increase nutrition security
- ii. Coordinate with food cluster to prioritize HH with PLWs and children
- iii. Assist NAO in lobbying for healthier food packs
- iv. Supervise conduct of DSP for at-risk population
- v. Coordinate with agriculture sector for seedling distribution

3. Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies

a. Local Nutrition Action Officers

- i. Orient LCEs on the Milk Code
- ii. Provide recommendations for when milk has already been donated to the LGUs
- iii. Instruct health workers of proper handling of milk products
- iv. Coordinate with the Food Cluster to avoid inclusion of milk in food packs
- v. Assign counsellors in both community-based and isolation environments
- vi. Refer cases for counselling to C/MNPCs or BNSs
- vii. Lobby for support group assistance at the barangay level
- viii. Ensure resources for the activities

b. D/C/M Nutrition Program Coordinators

- i. Coordinate with local donors and orient them about the milk code
- ii. Monitor social media posts in LGU re milk code
- iii. Report milk code violations to <http://mbfp.doh.gov.ph/reports>
- iv. Provide technical assistance to barangays and other health workers on proper milk product handling in emergencies
- v. Look into possibly of setting up mobile/social media based IYCF counselling
- vi. Provide TA to barangays for IYCF support group activation

- vii. Produce simple IYCF-E materials for BNS use in areas without counseling cards
 - viii. Follow-up on mothers who are being counselled
 - ix. Set key message for counselling for BNSs/Support Group Members
4. Micronutrient Supplementation
- a. Local Nutrition Action Officers
 - b. Assign health workers for continued micronutrition supplementation
 - c. Ensure availability of resources

 - d. D/C/M Nutrition Program Coordinators
 - i. Continue micronutrient supplementation activities
 - ii. Keep and update inventory of commodities
 - iii. Mentor BNSs and other health workers in encouraging MNP use
 - iv. Submit weekly vitamin A updates
5. Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)
- a. Local Nutrition Action Officers
 - i. Continue SAM and MAM case referrals
 - ii. Ensure that SAM and MAM cases are reported to the DRRMC meeting for prioritization in food cluster activities

 - b. D/C/M Nutrition Program Coordinators
 - i. Continue monitoring PIMAM cases
 - ii. Report inventory of PIMAM commodities
 - iii. Review BNSs/BHWs on the use of MUAC
 - iv. Report SAM and MAM cases to P/C/MNC and NNC 7 on a weekly basis

For questions about nutrition in emergencies implementation, you may contact the National Nutrition Council Region VII at (032) 418-7182, email us at region7@nnc.gov.ph or message our official Facebook page: [facebook.com/nncrvii](https://www.facebook.com/nncrvii).

These reminders are being issued to ensure that the nutritional status of the vulnerable groups will not worsen.



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