



CENTRAL VISAYAS REGIONAL NUTRITION CLUSTER

Date : **29 April 2020**
To : **All Local Nutrition Clusters in the Central Visayas**
Subject: **COVID 19 Advisory No. 4 S. 2020**

Pursuant to 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 PD 1569 which outlines the roles of Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS), the Central Visayas Regional Nutrition Cluster deems it necessary to remind all local nutrition clusters of the roles of the BNS in ensuring that nutrition services in the barangay in times of emergencies are not neglected to prevent further worsening of the community's nutrition situation. BNSs are the foundation of nutrition services at the local level and are thus an important human resource in addressing the nutritional needs of the vulnerable population including children, pregnant and lactating women and the elderly in their areas of coverage.

As follow up of the previous Regional Nutrition Cluster advisories, all clusters are reminded of the roles of the BNSs in COVID-19 response as follows:

1. Rapid Nutrition Assessment and Monitoring

- a. Know number of current pregnant, lactating women and children below 5 years of age
- b. Monitor vulnerable groups in isolation facilities and determine their nutrition status
- c. Conduct rapid nutrition assessment using MUAC
- d. Report nutrition assessment via short messaging system/chat

2. Nutrition Security

- a. Coordinate with the local government unit (LGU) to prioritize households with pregnant and lactating women and children
- b. Ensure that food packs have healthier options by tapping agricultural resources
- c. Encourage inclusion of fresh produce in family food packs

3. Food Security

- a. Coordinate with agriculture sector for seedling distribution
- b. Ensure that community/households' gardens are thriving
- c. Pitch ideas for mobile markets

4. Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Counselling

- a. Activate IYCF support groups
- b. Ensure that exclusively breastfeeding mothers continue breastfeeding
- c. Provide counselling for those who worry that they do not have enough milk
- d. Refer mothers to online counselling groups, if available
- e. Teach mothers how to prepare healthier meals

5. Milk Code Monitoring

- a. Guard the community against milk code violations
"Batang Pinoy SANA TALL...Iwas stunting, SANA ALL!"



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(NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL – Region VII)

Department of Health – Central Visayas Center for Health Development



- i. Calling for artificial milk donation is not allowed
 - ii. Milk companies should not donate in cash or kind
 - iii. Guard social media posts
- b. Ensure that all alternatives are exhausted before giving milk to special cases
 - c. If artificial milk is bought by the LGU, make sure that you are there to teach mothers how to prepare it
- 6. Micronutrient Supplementation**
- a. Continue micronutrient supplementation activities
 - b. Push for the use of Micronutrient Powder when household is food and nutrition insecure. Key message: *The powder will provide nutrients to help boost your child's immune system*
 - c. Ensure provision of Vitamin A
 - d. Give priority to known malnourished cases
- 7. Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)**
- a. Continue IMAM activities
 - b. Monitor cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition and Moderate Acute Malnutrition
 - c. While there are no Ready to Use Therapeutic Food available, make sure that they are priority in the provision of food packs and micronutrient supplementation

Local Nutrition clusters are also reminded that Barangay Nutrition Scholars are eligible for inclusion in the Social Amelioration Program following due assessment from your local government units.

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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<http://www.nnc.gov.ph/regional-offices/region-vii>



Wastong Nutrisyon:
Alamin, Gawin at Palaganapin