

Good News
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
31 May 2021



Frontline and essential workers, next in line for COVID-19 vaccine

After the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination prioritizing the A1 to 3 categories such as the medical front liners, senior citizens, and persons with comorbidities, the vaccination continues its expansion to A4 or the frontline and essential workers category.

Department of Labor and Employment Assistant Secretary and Bureau of Working Conditions Director, Dr. Ma. Teresita Cucueco said in a television interview that frontline and essential workers pertain to individuals whose nature of work requires interaction with the public. Security guards, transportation and market workers, and government personnel, especially those in border control are among the examples mentioned.

Asec. Cucueco also emphasized that the global shortage of vaccines is still a continuous challenge and urged the public to get vaccinated and avoid cherry-picking of vaccine brands.

In addition to frontlines and essential workers, BPO employees, who are mostly in work-from-home arrangements, are also added to the A4 category because of their economic contribution.

Asec. Cucueco reiterated that the DOLE does not allow the company implementation of the “no vaccine, no work” policy, but is highly encouraging every worker to get vaccinated if they are covered in the first three categories. Additionally, Asec. Cucueco also stated that employers may coordinate with the LGU for the vaccination of their employees.

She also mentioned that outbound OFWs who are expected to leave within 4 months are now considered as part of the A1 category since one of the requirements for overseas deployment is the vaccination.

“Sa pag-laban sa COVID-19, ang bakuna ay importanteng stratehiya para ang proteksyon ay mapasa-atin, sa ating pamilya, at kapwa-manggagawa para hindi na tayo malagay sa panganib na dulot ng COVID-19” Asec. Cucueco imparted.

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