

**Good News**  
**Department of Labor and Employment**  
**Bureau of Working Conditions**  
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### **DOLE clarifies inclusion of private sector workers in A-4 priority group**

In an interview earlier today at DZMM Teleradyo Sakto, DOLE Assistant Secretary clarifies that the A-4 category priority group now includes private sector workers required to be physically present at their designated workplace outside their residences, including work-from-home employees, among others.

Asec Cucueco said that originally, the A-4 priority group includes economic frontline workers who have been identified to have exposure to the public and are exposed to the risk of contracting COVID-19 as listed in the guidelines.

However, after a review of the existing guidelines, the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) now includes "private workers who go out of their residences and who have to physically report to work, all government employees, informal workers and self-employed workers who also have to go out of their residences."

Workers from priority areas identified by the IATF, such as the NCR+, Metro Cebu, Metro Davao, and Pampanga, Laguna, are now also included in the A-4 priority group.

When asked about the inclusion of work-from-home employees, Asec Cucueco confirmed that work-from-home employees, specifically workers in the BPOs, are also included in the expanded list because of their contribution to the economy.

Asec Cucueco explained that, based on studies, the risk of contracting COVID-19 increases as the person leaves his or her residence and has increased public interaction.

The inoculation of the expanded A-4 priority group is to commence within the month of June where an estimate of thirty million are expected to be vaccinated.

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