

News Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
10 September 2021



Transmission of COVID-19 on Labor Sectors

The segment of “Public Briefing #LagingHandaPH” on September 02, 2021 addressed the health protocols implemented in workplaces. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), represented by Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresita S. Cucueco, stated that DOLE conducts strict workplace inspections to ensure that minimum health protocols are followed although the implementation of skeleton workforce in government offices continues as a preventive measure against the threat of the more contagious Delta variant of COVID-19.

From January 2021 to the present, DOLE has received 48,413 COVID-19 Work Accident Illness Report (WAIR) from workplaces, with 4,700 companies reporting that they have COVID-19 on their premises. Asec. Cucueco provided an update on which labor sectors have had a significant increase in COVID-19 transmission. Wholesale and retail trade, manufacturing, finance and insurance activities, and construction are the main labor sectors in the country.

With these reports, DOLE is continuing and intensifying its inspection nationwide to ensure that workplaces are complying with the Occupational Safety and Health Standards, particularly in the prevention of COVID-19 infection. In fact, 72,000 establishments were inspected out of a total of 75,000 that were targeted for inspection throughout the year.

In submitting the report, despite the fact that there are zero (0) cases of COVID-19 in the workplaces, Asec. Cucueco encourages companies to submit their COVID-19 WAIR. She reminded companies to follow the safety and health standards at their workplaces, and for those who are not aware of the regulations, the DOLE will assist them in becoming compliant before imposing any penalty.

Asec. Cucueco finished her interview by mentioning that DOLE has already issued Safety Seal certificates to 292 out of 897 applications from workplaces. The manufacturing, utilities, and construction industries represent the majority of the applications received by the Department.

The full video of the segment may be replayed at <https://tinyurl.com/DOLEonLagingHandaPH>.

/LGBZ/