

Healthscape

SPECIAL COVID-19 ISSUE



MANILA

NO. 23 • 15 FEBRUARY 2021

MULA KAY

Asanselor...

Naging maaliwas ang pagdating ng 2021 dahil sa mainit na balita na pinag-uusapan ngayon sa buong bansa. Ang isa sa mga bakuna laban sa COVID-19 ay binigyan na ng Emergency Use Authorization ng Food and Drug Administration ng Pilipinas. Gusto kong ipaalam sa ating komunidad na halos lahat ng mga dalubhasang bumubuo ng *expert panels* ng gobyerno patungkol sa COVID, kasama ang bakuna, tulad ng Health Technology Assessment Council ay galing sa ating unibersidad.

Naniniwala tayo na ang malawakang pagpapabakuna ang magiging daan upang matapos na itong pandemya; kung kaya't puspunan ang ating paghahanda pati na ng buong bansa para dito. Ngunit base sa mga survey, may malaking porsiyento pa ng mga mamamayan ang ayaw magpabakuna dahil marahil sa laganap na maling impormasyon tungkol sa pagbabakuna at sa ibang partikular na bakuna para sa COVID.

Dalawa ang mga artikulo sa isyu natin ngayon ang magbabahagi ng tamang kaalaman at sasagot sa mga mahahalagang katanungan tungkol sa bakuna laban sa COVID. Bilang sentro ng siyensa sa kalusugan, dapat tayong maging kinatawan ng tamang paniniwala para sa ikagagaling ng bansa.

Habang abala ang karamihan sa atin sa paghahanda ng pagbabakuna; mababasa dito sa Healthscape na walang patid ang pagkilos ng ibang sangay ng ating unibersidad. Ang College of Public Health ay nakipagtulungan sa United Kingdom upang makagawa ng mga pagsisiyap sa iba't-ibang larangan ng Science and Technology. Naipagpatuloy ng College of Nursing ang pagsasanay ng mga narses para sa Universal Health Care gamit ang kakaibang *redesigned online course* na nakitang naging epektibo sa pagbuo ng mga lider-narses.

Kahit abala tayo sa COVID at pagtuturo, at kahit mahirap puntahan sila ngayong pandemya; hindi natin kinalimutan ang ating mga kababayan sa mga malalayong kanayunan na nasalanta ng bagyo at baha. Nagpunta ang Ugnayan ng Pahinungod Manila sa kanila upang magbigay ng mga donasyon at iba pang tulong.

Nasisipat na natin ang liwanag sa hinaharap! Marami pang hirap at pagpupunyagi ang dapat nating ialay, ngunit naipakita na natin ang ating tibay ng loob, sipag, talino, at pagkakaisa mula pa nuong simula. Hindi tayo matitinag at bagkus lalo pa tayong pinasigla nitong pagdating ng mga bakuna sa bansa! Nawa ipagpatuloy ng Maykapal ang pagbabasbas sa atin.

"Are We Ready for COVID-19 Vaccines?"

WEBINAR #37
ARE WE READY FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINES?
PRESENTOR: DR. ROLANDO ENRIQUE DOMINGO
Undersecretary, Department of Health
Director-General, Food and Drug Administration

WATCH THE LIVESTREAM AT
www.tvup.ph

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JANUARY 22, 2021 | FRIDAY | 12NN-2PM
#stopcoviddeaths

Food and Drug Administration Director-General Dr. Rolando Enrique Domingo announced the government's plan to vaccinate 70 million Filipinos within 2021 with vaccinations to start possibly as early as February or early March. He made this announcement during the *Stop COVID Deaths Webinar Series* entitled, "Are We Ready for COVID-19 Vaccines?" held on 22 January 2021 to discuss the country's readiness in terms of our vaccine deployment and preparedness.

He announced the inclusion of the Philippines in the COVAX facility and the country will receive 14 million doses from this. The COVAX facility is a way for countries to pool resources and to have an equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. To achieve the 70 million target, Dr. Domingo stressed that the government is making arrangements with other manufacturers to achieve the herd immunity threshold of 70% of the population.

With vaccine development usually taking many years, Dr. Domingo disclosed that most of the leading vaccine development efforts are still in the middle of phase three clinical trial which means they are not eligible for the certificate of product registration (CPR). To make the vaccine

available in the country during this pandemic, Executive Order 121 was signed on Dec. 1, 2020 granting the FDA the authority to issue an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for COVID-19 vaccines. EUA is a risk-based procedure to assess an unlicensed vaccine along three criteria: evidence showing the vaccine's effectiveness against COVID-19, potential benefits outweighing the risks, and no currently available approved COVID-19 vaccine. He stressed that EUA is not a marketing authorization which means that the vaccines given EUA cannot be sold commercially.

The FDA assured the public that it will do its best to make sure that the vaccine that will be given emergency authorization will pass through all the needed scientific and technical reviews. Quality and production stability will be reviewed by regulatory officers in FDA and the scientific safety and efficacy data will be evaluated by two expert panels composed of at least five members who are infectious disease specialist, immunologists, vaccine specialists, and epidemiologists.

"The good thing about the EUA is that the Director General has the discretion to review, revisit, and revoke authorization at any time
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The Journey of a Vaccine

How a new vaccine is developed, approved, and manufactured

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sets rules for the four phases of clinical research so that researchers can learn about the effects of new therapies while keeping volunteers safe. This includes trials of new vaccines to protect against infection; researchers always test vaccines with adults first.

Phase 1



20-100 healthy volunteers

Researchers try to answer these questions:

- Is this vaccine safe?
- Are there any serious side effects?
- How does the vaccine dose relate to any side effects?
- Is the vaccine causing an immune response?

Phase 2



Several hundred volunteers

Researchers try to answer these questions:

- What are the most common short-term side effects of the vaccine?
- What is the body's immune response?
- Are there signs that the vaccine is protective?

Phase 3



One thousand or more volunteers

Researchers try to answer these questions:

- How do disease rates compare between people who get the vaccine and those who do not?
- How well can the vaccine protect people from disease?

FDA approves a vaccine only if:

- It is safe and effective
- Its benefits outweigh the risks

Phase 4



Treatment is approved by the FDA and made available to the general public.

FDA closely monitors the safety of the vaccine after the public begins using it. Researchers continue to collect data on the vaccine's long-term benefits and side effects.

Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)

VAERS, a national monitoring program run by the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, collects and reviews reports of any health problems that develop after a person gets a vaccine. Anyone can submit a report, including patients and healthcare professionals.

Medical recommendations for taking the vaccine may change if safety monitoring reveals new information about its risks. vaers.hhs.gov

For more information, visit

[cdc.gov/vaccinesafety](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety)

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/infographics/journey-of-child-vaccine.html>



National Institutes of Health

Most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on COVID-19 Vaccines

As of January 25, 2021

More FAQs to follow with new developments

Why should I get vaccinated against the SARS CoV2 (the COVID-19 virus)?

Answer: In a pandemic situation, the vaccines which have been shown to be efficacious and safe through Phase III clinical trials can help bring the pandemic under control. Together with the basic prevention strategies of wearing face mask, physical distancing of 1 meter, and frequent hand hygiene; vaccines will reduce your risk for getting COVID-19. Vaccines will not only protect you but may also indirectly protect your family and others around you.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines which will be used in our country safe?

Answer: Like all nations, our country has a regulatory body, the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that oversees vaccine safety and efficacy before vaccines are used widely. There is also a global oversight provided by the WHO through its coordination of independent technical bodies that rigorously review the safety and efficacy of vaccines prior to and after they have been introduced. Thus, even if the present COVID-19 vaccine development has been much faster than traditionally experienced in the past, they can only receive the required regulatory approvals for use in our country if they meet stringent safety and efficacy standards.

Will the COVID-19 vaccines guarantee to protect me from getting COVID-19?

Answer: Persons receiving the vaccines must understand that the no vaccine can guarantee absolutely 100% efficacy. What vaccines would be able to do is to reduce the risk of developing COVID-19 disease. The FDA determines the vaccine efficacy of each vaccine and assures us that the number of COVID-19 disease prevented among those who received the vaccine versus those who did not receive the vaccine will significantly be beneficial for the people who will receive the vaccine.

What does it mean when a COVID-19 vaccine is issued an EUA? Which COVID-19 vaccines have been granted an EUA in the Philippines?

Answer: EUA is Emergency Use Authorization which means a COVID-19 vaccine is already made available even before a full application is approved by the FDA because of the pandemic and the potential benefits of providing the product outweighs the potential risks. This was made possible through the Executive Order 121 s. 2020 (December 1, 2020): granting the Philippine FDA Director General the authority to issue EUA for COVID-19 vaccines. The FDA Circular 2020-036: Guidelines on the Issuance of EUA for Drugs and Vaccines for COVID-19 provides the specific requirements for EUA application. The EUA is valid only within the duration of the declared public health emergency due to COVID-19. It is not a marketing authorization or Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) hence vaccine cannot be sold commercially.

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Q A ON COVID-19 VACCINES

Other than the Philippine FDA, who else approved an EUA to the Pfizer BNT162b2 vaccine?

The WHO gave its recommendation for the Pfizer COVID-19 mRNA vaccine brand name Comirnaty, COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (nucleoside modified) for an Emergency Use Listing (EUL) last December 31, 2020. The use of Comirnaty under an emergency situation has been also endorsed by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the US FDA and the FDA of Health Canada and other regulatory authorities (including Bahrain, Israel, Kuwait, Mexico, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and the United Kingdom).

This poster may be shared freely to help spread true reliable information.

Reference: PHAD Most Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19 Vaccines as of January 28, 2021

This is a UP-PGH - PSMID Collaboration

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Q A ON COVID-19 VACCINES

What kind of vaccine is the Pfizer BNT162b2?

BNT162b2 is a lipid nanoparticle-formulated, nucleoside-modified RNA vaccine. It encodes a prefusion stabilized, membrane-anchored SARS-CoV-2 full-length spike protein.

For whom should the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine be used?

According to the WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE), the Pfizer COVID-19 mRNA vaccine, Comirnaty is a vaccine for preventing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in individuals aged 16 years and older.

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Reference: PHAD Most Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19 Vaccines as of January 28, 2021

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Q A ON COVID-19 VACCINES

What kind of study was the Phase 3 clinical trial which tested the Pfizer BNT162b2? What kinds of patients were included?

The trial was a randomized controlled double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Study participants were followed for a median of 2 months for safety and for the development of symptomatic COVID-19 confirmed by RT-PCR.

The study included a large number of participants with 21,823 randomized to the vaccine group and 21,828 to the placebo group. Included were healthy participants ages 16 years and older from various countries. In the interim analysis of the data shows that: Age range was 16-65 years old, median age was 52 years, with patients older than 64 years composed 22% and older than 75yo composed 42% of all participants; 49% were female; 83% were White, 9% were African American, 28% were Hispanic, and 4.3% were Asians.

Those with at least one comorbidity were 20.5%, and those obese were 35%. Only 0.3% were with the diagnosis of HIV, and 2.6% were detected to be seropositive at baseline.

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FAQs FROM PAGE 2...

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine BNT162b2 has received the EUA from the Philippine FDA last January 14, 2021.

Do I still have to wear mask and face shield and observe physical distancing after I receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Answer: Yes, we should continue to observe the same preventive precautions.

If I will need to continue wearing masks and be required to observe all the usual health measures, why undergo vaccination at all?

Answer: The combination of the COVID-19 vaccine with the continued practice of preventive strategies will help further reduce risks for developing the COVID-19 for the vaccinated individuals. If there would be enough persons in the population who will get vaccinated, it is possible to reach the threshold to establish a herd immunity or reducing the number of susceptible individuals enough to provide protection even for those who were not vaccinated yet (like children). The WHO explains that we do not know yet exactly how many needs to be vaccinated to reach herd immunity for COVID-19 as this depends on many factors. But the greater the number of persons vaccinated, the more likely we will reach herd immunity in our country.

How can I protect myself and my family until we receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Answer: Despite efforts of the national government there is a global limitation in the number of vaccines being manufactured; therefore, these will not be available at once to all citizens of our country. While waiting for the vaccines, continue to follow the basic preventive measures. There are easy ways to remember these such as:

✓ **Follow the "Apat Dapat"** which include: A is for Air Circulation; P is for Physical Distancing; A is for Always Wear Mask and Face Shield properly; T is for Thirty minutes or less interaction.

✓ **"Sundin ang BIDA Solusyon"** of the DOH which include: B for Bawal walang mask; I for I-sanitize ang mga kamay; D for Distansiya ng 1 metro; A for Alamin ang tamang impormasyon.

✓ **Avoid the 3Cs of COVID-19** which include: Close contact, Crowded places, Closed confined spaces

Will getting vaccinated against the COVID-19 be required?

Answer: No. There is no law or administrative order which requires this; but vaccination is highly recommended particularly for individuals who fall under the priority groups by the PSMID, the DOH, the IATF, the WHO, and all expert health groups. In the future it is possible that it may be a requirement for travel or some types of workplaces or communities for the greater good or public health reasons.

How can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Answer: The government is already in the process of mobilizing health institutions and local governments for the vaccine deployment. Keep updated through your residence or workplace. Stay informed and sign up accordingly.

MORE FAQs ON SPECIFIC VACCINE ISSUES:

I heard there is a National COVID-19 Vaccine Roadmap. Who are in the priority groups in the national vaccination plan?

Answer: The priority groups in the national vaccination plan are frontline

health workers, senior citizens, indigent population, and uniformed personnel.

Why is it important for health care workers to be vaccinated?

Answer: In countries with ongoing high levels of community transmission like the Philippines, it is very important to prioritize healthcare workers (HCWs) in the COVID-19 vaccination program. Three overarching reasons are listed by the [WHO-SAGE framework](#).

- ✓ First, protecting HCWs will protect the availability of the essential health services critical in the COVID-19 pandemic response in the hospital, national, and global levels;
- ✓ Second, HCWs are at high risk of acquiring the COVID-19 infections and pose risks to patients they take care of;
- ✓ Third, prioritization of HCWs is supported by the principle of reciprocity. HCWs should be a group who readily understands the pros and cons of immunization; and implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine is expected to be implemented without much difficulty, hesitation, or problems with follow-up compliance.

Who among the hospital staff will be prioritized?

Answer: The entire staff members of hospitals will be prioritized. This includes doctors, nurses, paramedical, support, and administrative staff of the health facilities.

I already got infected with COVID-19 last September and fortunately recovered. Do I still need to get vaccinated?

Answer: Yes. The possibility of reinfection is present and justifies the

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ARE WE READY FROM PAGE 1...

if there are any serious safety concerns. Comprehensive pharmacovigilance system is shared equally by the manufacturer and both DOH and FDA. Monitoring and surveillance will be very strict and we're now rolling out training programs," stated Dr. Domingo.

According to Dr. Domingo, Pfizer-BioNTech was granted EUA while Astra Zeneca, Gamaleya Sputnik V, and Sinovac are under evaluation. He disclosed that Moderna, Serum Institute of India, Bharat Biotech, Janssen of Johnson and Johnson, Clover, and Sinopharm are also asking for the requirements and will soon be applying for the EUA. Aside from the EUA, Dr. Domingo disclosed that the FDA approved COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials of Janssen of Johnson and Johnson and Clover Pharmaceutical in the country.

Dr. Eric Tayag, Director IV of the DOH Knowledge Management and Information Technology Service discussed that since there are several brands of vaccines on cue that may be given EUA, this implies potential use of different brands of vaccines in the country. The challenge is not only providing specific logistical arrangements but also the correct information so that those who will vaccinate will know the exact procedure for these different vaccines.

Dr. Franco Felizarta, infectious disease and internal medicine specialist shared his experiences on being vaccinated in the United States. He said that hospitals who were supposed to give the vaccine to all health care workers were overwhelmed. For their vaccination program, they sought the help of the community health centers, private clinics, and pharmacies. He also described the complex logistical requirements of vaccine distribution since some of the vaccines require a -70 degree freezer and the need for online appointments since most vaccine vials contain multiple doses.

Mr. Roby Alampay, co-anchor of "The Chiefs" on TV5 One News asserted that the information campaign should not be limited to the digital world but

ON COVID-19 VACCINES

How was the vaccine given to the trial participants?

The Pfizer BNT162b2 was given as two doses: 0.3ml (30ug) intramuscular injection, 2 doses, 21 days apart. The placebo arm was given saline injection.

How large is the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine efficacy?

The vaccine efficacy reported is 95% (95% confidence interval (CI) 90.3-97.6) seen by the 7th day after the 2nd dose of the vaccine. The vaccine efficacy after the first dose is 52.4% (95% CI 29.5-68.4).

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FAQs FROM PAGE 3...

recommendation to vaccinate. The vaccine trials have included a few patients with serologic evidence of previous infection and vaccination was completed safely in these individuals.

If you are currently ill and confirmed to have COVID-19, you should wait until such time you have recovered from the acute illness and you have fulfilled the entire recommended period of isolation criteria prior to discontinuing isolation.

Is it safe for me to get vaccinated if I have other illnesses? I drink medicines

ON COVID-19 VACCINES

How many do we need to vaccinate to prevent 1 COVID19 infection from occurring?

The computed Number needed to vaccinate (NNV) to prevent one case of COVID19 is 116.



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for diabetes and hypertension.

Answer: Patients with comorbidities are considered vulnerable for more severe disease or death if they get the COVID-19 and thus among those recommended to have the COVID-19 vaccine. The benefit should be weighed against the risks. You belong under the priority groups after the current priority groups identified by the national vaccination program in both the [WHO-Sage recommendations](#) and the [US Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#); and the Philippine government assures us that these vulnerable groups will likewise be addressed soon. **Regina Berba**

needs to be expanded. He asserted that other ways could be traditional like door-to-door campaign, town hall meetings, use of pamphlets, and going down to the communities.

From the private sector's perspective, Mr. Paolo Maximo Borromeo, President and CEO of Ayala Healthcare, expressed full support for the government and pushed for the procurement of these vaccines at the soonest time.

"The readiness for COVID-19 vaccine

EDITORIAL BOX

The UP Manila Healthscape is published by the Information, Publication, and Public Affairs Office (IPPAO) of UP Manila.

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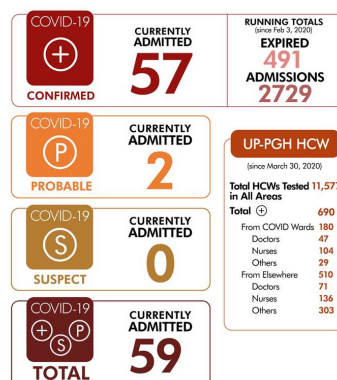
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is a whole of society approach whether one is from the private sector or the public sector or just part of the general public. We all have a role to play to make sure that we are all ready," emphasized Chancellor Carmencita Padilla. **Charmaine Lingdas**

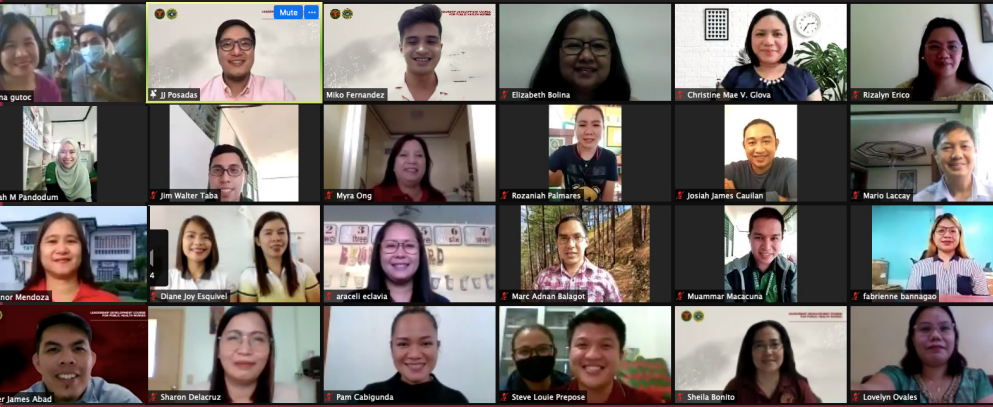
COVID-19 DAILY REPORT

as of 15 February 2021 (6PM)



COVID-19 **RECOVERED + DISCHARGED** **2163** **TOTAL**
 Recovered awaiting discharge 0





UPCN holds completion ceremony on leadership development for public health nurses

The Leadership Development Course for Public Health Nurses 2020 with the theme, “Strengthening Capacities for Universal Health Care,” held its closing ceremony on Jan. 25, 2021 for 57 public health nurses from the Department of Health and UP College of Nursing (UPCN).

First offered in 2019 by the UPCN as a professional development course, the program aimed to further enhance the competencies of public health nurses in delivering quality, safe, and affordable primary care services towards the full implementation of Universal Health Care (UHC). The 120-hour course included six competence areas based on the building blocks of health systems: health systems delivery, health financing, health

regulation, health governance, health information systems, and management of human resources for health.

The Virtual Completion Ceremony, was a culmination of an eight-week intensive training conducted with the support of the Department of Health’s Health Human Resource Development Bureau.

Amidst the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic, the course was redesigned for online delivery. Various remote learning strategies were used to help participants achieve course and learning outcomes. These include synchronous and asynchronous activities. Asynchronous activities and course materials were curated in an

online learning management system hosted by the UPCN Open Learning. Several of the asynchronous activities used video resources to simulate actual field visits that were created through the help of the Marikina City Health Office.

Synchronous sessions gave participants an opportunity to virtually interact with the faculty, teaching assistants, resource persons, and fellow participants. Online meeting applications made group presentations and outputs possible. The participants were also given a two-week reading break in the middle of the course. They were required to submit a capstone project proposal based on a local health problem to complete the course.

The course provided the graduates a strong foundation in public health nursing and equipped them with the necessary leadership and management skills to be key players in the UHC implementation. Its success is a testament to the innovative leadership of the College of Nursing in the professional development of public health nurses in spite of a pandemic. The course will be offered again in the second half of this year.

John Joseph Posadas

Ugnayan ng Pahinungod Manila mounts relief initiatives for typhoon-hit municipalities



Despite the threat of COVID-19, the official volunteer service arm of UP Manila provided relief to the communities that were flooded and destroyed by the series of powerful typhoons that struck the country in 2020.

Led by its director, Dr. Eric Talens, the Ugnayan ng Pahinungod Manila conducted missions in Camarines Sur, Cagayan, and Catanduanes with help from generous donors and organizations; in close coordination with the local governments and with the full support of UP Manila and PGH.

To ensure that proper precautionary

measures were taken, the Office of the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Administration provided the travel orders, the Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development lent his SUV for transportation, and the PGH supplied the free antibody tests and medical clearances of the team. After conducting calls for donations, packing the goods, and coordinating transport, the 22 Pahinungod volunteers were mobilized to deliver relief to the affected municipalities and assess further needs that UP may offer.

Camarines Sur

During the onslaught of typhoons Quinta and Rolly, the hardest-hit

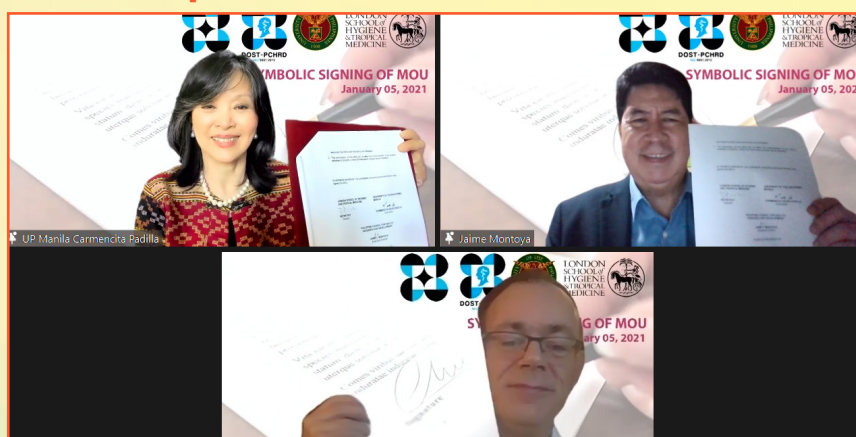
areas in Camarines Sur were 10 coastal barangays in Sagñay and two in Tigaon. The team arrived on November 10, 2020, and distributed the following goods: sacks of rice, sacks of salt, sacks of monggo beans, squash, jerry cans, slippers, tarpaulins, Paracetamol tablets, Ibuprofen tablets, face shields, bottled water, hygiene packs, blankets, clothes, shoes, canned goods, diapers, sanitary napkins, lotion, sleeping mats, and toys.

Amulung, Cagayan

Following typhoon Ulysses, the team traveled to Cagayan where

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UP Manila signs MOU to promote scientific cooperation between PH and UK



The scientific and technological cooperation in health between the Philippines and United Kingdom will be promoted and strengthened with UP Manila's signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). The virtual signing ceremony was held on 5 January 2021.

Under the MOU, DOST-PCHRD, LSHTM, and UP Manila will work together on various S & T collaborations on priority areas including genomics, modelling, diagnostics, clinical trials, epidemiology, and immunology. The partnership will also encourage the establishment of scientific and technological contacts among relevant organizations, research groups, colleges and universities, and firms in both LSHTM and UPM.

During the virtual signing, British Ambassador Daniel Pruce congratulated the PCHRD, UPM, and LSHTM; and recognized the importance of S&T in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations in fighting the pandemic. Department of Foreign Affairs Office of European Affairs Assistant Secretary Jaime Victor Ledda commended the undertaking and thanked the British government for being a committed partner in the areas of education and support for technological innovations.

PCHRD Exec. Director Dr. Jaime Montoya acknowledged that the vision of providing research-based solutions and innovations to address health

system needs will only be achieved by investing in more research collaborations and partnerships. He mentioned future steps under the agreement such as the conduct of a joint committee meeting to set the directions and priorities of the agreement and a symposium with British experts to identify and muster common research interests and specialties. These efforts are for a more synergistic and holistic approach to achieve higher standards of health research. Expanding the agreement with other local institutions through the help of UP Manila is also part of the plans.

UP Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla stated that the MOU is a very important step in moving forward the relations between UPM and LSHTM, with researchers of both institutions working formally and informally for a long time now. The agreement, she added, will put more power to their work because of the support not only of the Philippine government through DOST but of the UK through the LSHTM and other institutions.

"The agreement is not only for UP but the beginning of links with other institutions through expansion that I have committed to PCHRD. It begins a new chapter in the lives of our researchers," she declared

Witnessing the signing were Philippine Ambassador to the UK Ms. Arlene Gonzales-Macaiba, LSHTM Professor Martin Hibberd, DOST Assistant Secretary for International Cooperation Dr. Leah Buendia, and DOST-PCHRD Institutional Development Division Chief Ms. Carina Rebulanan. **Cynthia M. Villamor**

PAHINUNGOD FROM PAGE 5...

several towns and villages were submerged in high flood due to the release of water from Magat Dam. Of the 49 barangays in Amulung, 39 were flooded and 9 were damaged severely in the aftermath of the typhoon. From November 23-25, the team distributed rubber boots, pail and dipper, vitamins, and antifungal creams together with family food packs and hygiene kits.

Catanduanes: A Christmas Mission

Towards the end of 2020, three successive storms caused widespread destruction in Catanduanes. Aside from floods and destroyed houses, landslides also devastated some areas in the province. From December 14-16, a thousand gift packs consisting of notebooks, coloring books, crayons, food, cookies, instant noodles, and money envelopes containing 100 pesos were distributed in Barangay San Isidro. In Guinsaanan, 300 gift packs which included a hygiene kit, slippers, assorted short pants/skirts, food, school supplies, rice, and monggo beans were distributed.

As schools were badly hit in Catanduanes, the teachers in the municipality shared their concerns about the learning materials that were destroyed by the typhoons. To address this, the Pahinungod team sourced for ink and printer and tapped a partner who owned a paper company so that the modules can be reprinted.

Director Talens reported that the university got very good feedback from the mayors and barangay chairmen who lauded UP's response and efforts amid the pandemic. Dr. Talens expressed his appreciation of the university's unwavering support that allowed the Pahinungod to fulfill its mission.

Anne Marie Alto