



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region XII
Schools Division Office of Tacurong City

May 05, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

SGOD-2026- 068

**COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS IN SCHOOL CANTEENS
AND FEEDING AREAS**

TO: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chiefs, Curriculum Implementation and
Schools Governance and Operations Division
Cluster Head
School Head
Elementary and Secondary Schools (public)
This Division

1. In reference to DepEd Order No. 08, s. 2007 entitled "*Revised Implementing Guidelines on the Operation and Management in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools*", the Department of Education is committed to ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of all learners and personnel. Accordingly, all public elementary and secondary schools are hereby directed to strictly comply with food safety standards and regulatory requirements within school canteens and feeding areas.

2. This memorandum also reinforces adherence to Republic Act No. 10611, also known as the "Food Safety Act of 2013", and other relevant public health and sanitation regulations. Specifically, all schools are directed to ensure the following:

a. Strict Compliance with Food Safety Standards

All food handlers and personnel involved in food preparation and distribution shall:

- Observe proper hand hygiene at all times
- Use clean and sanitized utensils and equipment
- Prevent cross-contamination between raw and cooked food
- Ensure food is properly cooked, stored, and served safely
- Maintain cleanliness of food preparation and dining areas

b. Renewal of Health Certificates

- All food handlers in school canteens and feeding areas must secure and maintain a **valid Health Certificate** issued by the local health authority
- Health certificates must be **renewed annually** or as required by local ordinances
- No personnel shall be allowed to handle food without a valid health certificate



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- All school canteens must secure a **valid Sanitary Permit** issued by the Local Government Unit (LGU)
- The sanitary permit must be **renewed annually** and displayed in a conspicuous area within the canteen
- Compliance with sanitary inspections conducted by local health officers must be ensured at all times

d. Personal Hygiene and Health Monitoring

- Food handlers must wear appropriate protective gear (hairnets, face masks, clean uniforms)
- Personnel exhibiting symptoms of illness shall refrain from handling food
- Regular health monitoring of food handlers shall be conducted

e. Monitoring and Compliance

- School Heads are directed to conduct regular inspections and monitoring of compliance
- Immediate corrective actions must be undertaken for any deficiencies noted
- Reports and documentation shall be maintained for reference and validation

3. Non-compliance with this memorandum shall be dealt with in accordance with existing policies and regulations.

4. The utmost attention to the above-cited standards and the cooperation of all concerned are enjoined.

5. For queries/ clarifications you may contact Ms. Jonalee Y. Arquiza, RN, Division Food Safety Compliance Officer, through mobile number 09691882995.

6. For strict compliance.


GILDO G. MOSQUEDA, CEO VI
Schools Division Superintendent

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