



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2016 - 0026

FOR : ALL DOH REGIONAL OFFICES (RO) DIRECTORS AND SECRETARY OF HEALTH OF AUTONOMOUS REGION FOR MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM)

SUBJECT : Support Needed for the Conduct of the 2016 National TB Prevalence Survey (NTPS)

DATE : January 4, 2016

The National TB Prevalence Survey (NTPS) is a systematic population based-survey conducted by the National TB Control Program (NTP) of the Department of Health (DOH) every ten years to identify the number of people with TB disease in the country. The survey will officially commence in February 2016. The results of the survey will determine the extent of TB burden in the Philippines, its trends over time and the impact of the NTP to prevent and control TB. Furthermore, the survey results will provide future directions to DOH in updating the strategic plans and in strengthening current initiatives towards NTP's vision of a TB-free Philippines.

For this major undertaking, the DOH has engaged the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) and the Foundation for the Advancement of Clinical Epidemiology, Inc. (FACE) to conduct the 2016 NTPS as fund manager and implementing agency, respectively.

In view of the aforementioned, the cooperation and support of the DOH Regional Offices and the Local Government Units (LGUs) will be vital to ensure successful implementation of the survey, especially at the field level, to wit:

A. DOH – All Regional Offices:

1. Assist FACE in coordinating and advocating for necessary support from the local government units (LGUs) and local partners through regional NTP Coordinators and/or Development Management Officers (DMOs).
2. Coordinate with concerned LGUs for security clearance of selected clusters.
3. Coordinate with FACE and respective LGUs in facilitating necessary arrangements for pre-survey visits, actual field survey conduct and monitoring activities.
4. Inform those provinces/cities and municipalities included in the survey of the specific schedule of clusters.
5. Ensure availability and timely distribution of drugs, laboratory supplies and other logistics being provided by DOH through channels.
6. Participate in the joint monitoring for the survey, together with FACE, PCHRD, NTP and NTPS Technical Working Group (TWG).

7. Ensure that all TB patients identified during the survey, whether susceptible or drug-resistant, are properly referred to health facilities.
8. Provide technical assistance and/or related support (such as local coordination, information dissemination to concerned government offices, technical advice, logistics mobilization, IEC materials, etc) to the field survey teams, through regional NTP coordinators/ Development Management Officers (DMOs) and channels as needed.
9. Communicate related issues and concerns to DPCB (NTP).
10. If regional office has an identified laboratory for NTPS, the following support are needed:
 - a. Supervise hired medical technologist (MT) for NTPS, who will be assigned in the regional TB culture laboratory.
 - b. Ensure that hired MT will be allowed to go on overtime as needed.
 - c. Shoulder transportation expenses of regional MT activities related to NTPS such as training and monitoring chargeable to NTP sub-allotment funds.
 - d. Ensure that internet connection is in place at the regional laboratory.
 - e. Ensure that the additional GX machine, to be lent by Philippine Business for Social Progress – Global Fund (PBSP-GF) through the National TB Reference Laboratory (NTRL), will be appropriately utilized and properly maintained by the regional laboratory for NTPS activities.
 - f. Ensure that the ‘lent’ GX machine is duly returned to PBSP-GF, through NTRL, after the implementation of NTPS.

B. Identified Regional Laboratories for NTPS (ROs II, VII, X, XI) including the National TB Reference Laboratory (NTRL):

1. Perform laboratory procedures in accordance with the survey protocol and laboratory Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure good quality laboratory results.
2. Attend training workshops on the NTPS protocol and SOPs, which will be organized from time to time.
3. Facilitate in the on-the-job training of hired medical technologist under the supervision of NTRL.
4. Supervise the hired medical technologist for the duration of the survey.
5. Ensure that laboratory supplies are available for the survey procedures.
6. Coordinate with respective field survey teams in ensuring proper transport of specimens from the sites to the identified laboratory and give technical assistance as necessary.
7. Perform necessary quality control measures and documentation in accordance with the quality control procedures of the survey.
8. Ensure proper collection and encoding of laboratory data and complete submission of laboratory reports to FACE as stipulated in the NTPS SOPs.
9. Properly utilize and maintain the ‘lent’ GX machine unit and return to NTRL after the duration of the survey.
10. Provide regular updates and report laboratory-related issues and concerns to NTRL.

C. Provincial / City / Municipal Health Offices:

1. Assist the field survey team in coordinating and advocating necessary support from the respective municipalities of identified barangays.
2. Facilitate the issuance of security clearance of the identified barangays at least one month prior to the field survey.
3. Coordinate with concerned municipal and barangay officials with regard to the conduct of pre-survey visit and survey proper.
4. Ensure availability and timely distribution of laboratory supplies and other logistics needed for NTPS, as provided by DOH.

5. Participate in the joint monitoring for the survey, together with FACE, PCHRD, NTP NTPS TWG and DOH regional office, as needed.
6. Ensure that all TB patients identified during the survey, whether susceptible or drug-resistant, are properly referred to health facilities.
7. Ensure that survey participants with other medical problems that warrant medical attention (as detected by the Field Team Leader by physical examination and/or chest x-ray) and are referred by the survey team are properly referred to health facilities.
8. Provide immediate technical assistance and/or related support (such as local coordination, information dissemination, technical advice, logistics mobilization, IEC materials, etc) to the field survey team, as needed.
9. Communicate related issues and concerns to the DOH regional office.

D. Local Government Units (LGUs)

1. Issue security clearance of identified barangays at least one month prior to the conduct of field survey and advise concerned DOH offices as soon as possible if there is any immediate security threat in the identified areas and provide security assistance to field survey team as necessary.
2. Advocate necessary support and coordinate arrangements for pre-survey visits and actual field survey together with the field survey team.
3. Inform the specific schedule of the barangay to be included in the survey.
4. Identify appropriate set-up for the field survey site in coordination with the field survey team.
5. Deploy barangay officials (eg. Barangay Captain, Kagawad, Barangay Tanod, etc) and Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) to assist the field survey team for the operationalization of the survey.

E. Barangay Office/s (in coordination with the Rural Health Units / City Health Centers)

1. Assist in the household survey by providing a list of households, household members, and a spot map to the field survey team for the randomly sampled barangays or puroks.
2. Inform the community of the schedule and purpose of the visit.
3. Mobilize the household members in the community and assist the field survey team in preparing and organizing the survey site for pre-survey visit and actual field survey.
4. Provide stable electricity in operating survey equipment such as Xray machine and computers.
5. Coordinate the logistical needs of the field survey team (eg recommendation for housing, place to eat, etc).

All regional NTP coordinators are directed to disseminate and coordinate accordingly to concerned government agencies and partners.

For your information and compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:



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Undersecretary of Health
Office for Technical Services