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CHED to students: Only fully vaccinated allowed to go to in-person classes

Job Manahan, ABS-CBN News

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Students at the school grounds of the Far Eastern University in Manila on February 23, 2022. George Calvelo, ABS-CBN News

MANILA—The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) on Saturday reiterated that only fully vaccinated students from COVID-19 would be allowed to attend in-person classes, as more higher education institutions (HEI) were expected to resume under looser restrictions.

CHED chairperson Prospero De Vera said those who remained unvaccinated could opt to participate in online classes.

"'Yung mga hindi bakunado puwede sila mag-aral sa pamamagitan ng online classes. Ang policy ng CHED sa lahat ng higher education institutions ay flexible learning policy pa rin," De Vera explained in a televised briefing.

- [READ: Limited in-person classes allowed in law schools in areas under Alert Levels 1-3](#)

"'Yung pamantasan 'yung magde-decide ng tamang mix ng face to face, online, at offline. 'Yun 'yung kanilang option. Puwede silang mag-full face-to-face, full online. Puwede ring maging online plus face-to-face . . . depende sa pangangailangan ng pamantasan at kakayanan ng mga estudyante at faculty," he added.

Malacañang on Friday announced that the COVID-19 task force approved guidelines set by CHED for in-person classes under Alert Level 1.

- [READ: Gov't OKs full capacity for college, university in-person classes under Alert Level 1](#)

Under the commission's rules, only fully vaccinated personnel and students will be allowed in the school's premises.

HEIs under the loosest alert level have also been allowed to operate at full capacity, which means no physical distancing will be implemented in seating arrangements, it added.

BENEFITS OF OPERATING AT 100 PCT

De Vera said letting schools operate at 100 percent would make it easier to determine how many students could attend face-to-face classes.

HEIs under the higher alert levels, he added, could only allow a capacity of 50 percent or 70 percent, which was why alternate classes of students were held physically.

- [READ: CHED: Don't hold in-person classes if conditions unfavorable](#)
- [READ: CHED pushes for 'clustered' COVID-19 vaccination in colleges, universities](#)

"Ang benefit ay hindi mo na masyadong pinoproblema kung ilan 'yung iyong pabalik. Noon, dahil sa Alert Level 3 dahil 30 percent lamang, pinoproblema ng pamantasan 'yung pagsalit-salit ng mga estudyante kung kailan sila papasok o mago-online o mago-offline," he explained.

"Ngayon mas madali na i-arrange ang klase . . . Mas kaya na nila i-manage 'yung facility."

At present, about 313 HEIs are holding in-person classes, while more than 1,000 programs are allowed to return physically, the CHED chief said.

He emphasized that more universities and colleges would open next school year 2022 to 2023, as some had to postpone their reopening this semester due to the surge of new COVID-19 cases in January due to the more transmissible omicron variant.

CHED to students: Only fully vaccinated allowed to go to in-person classes



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Leody De Guzman says 4-day workweek OK if it won't led to pay cuts

ABS-CBN News

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Halalan 2022 Presidential hopeful Leody de Guzman during his proclamation rally at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City on Feb 8, 2022. Mark Demayo, ABS-CBN News

MANILA — Partido Lakas ng Masa presidential bet Leody de Guzman said on Wednesday that he has reservations with the 4-day workweek proposal by the government.

De Guzman said some companies have a "no work, no pay" policy, which may lead employers to deduct 1 day's wage each week from workers' paychecks.

The labor leader said the 4-day workweek proposal is acceptable only if it will not lead to any deduction in the salaries of workers.

"Okay lang 'yun, maganda yun kung walang bawas sa sweldo. Pero kung babawasan 'yung sweldo ng mga manggagawa ay malaking problema 'yan na 4 na araw na lang ang suswelduhin ng ating manggagawa sa panahong ito na matindi ang krisis.

(It's okay, it's good if there is no salary reduction. But if workers' salaries will be reduced it's a big problem that workers will only be paid for 4 days [a week] during a period of severe crisis.)

De Guzman said that if the proposed 4-day workweek will lead to reduced pay, then it will only make things worse for workers.

Philippine economic managers have proposed a 4-day workweek and an extension of remote work setups, in a bid to cushion the impact of soaring pump prices on the commuting public.

- [Officials seek 4-day workweek, extended WFH as fuel prices soar](#)

De Guzman meanwhile reiterated his call for a 6-hour workday for employees, which he said will lead employers to hire more workers, and thus raise the employment rate.

"Ang aking panukala para sa shortened workweek, na maaring 6-hour working day, nang walang kabawasan sa sweldo, ay naglalayong magdagdag na isang shift para sa karagdagang empleyo habang binabawasan ang physical depreciation ng katawan ng manggagawang nalalaspag sa pag-oobertaym at pagtarabaho," he said.

(My proposal for a shortened workweek, which could be a 6-hour working day, with no pay cut, aims to add another shift for additional employment while reducing the physical depreciation of workers' tired from overtime and working.)

- [Ka Leody bats for 6-hour workday in PH](#)

De Guzman has promised to end contractualization, raise the minimum wage of workers across the board to P750 per day, and remove the wage discrepancy between provincial and NCR workers.

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