



PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Theme: **NAGKAKAISANG PMA: HATID AY KALUSUGAN PARA SA LAHAT**

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Position Statement on Vaccination and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPDs)

CURRENT SITUATION

Recent data from the World Health Organization (WHO) reveals a significant rise in global dengue cases, with over 7.6 million cases reported in 2024, including more than 3,000 deaths.¹ In the Philippines, dengue remains a major public health concern, with 208,000 cases reported as of September 2024, marking a 68% increase compared to the same period last year.²

THE NEED FOR COMBINED EFFORTS

Effective prevention and control of dengue require combined vector control and vaccination efforts. Vector control measures, including eliminating mosquito breeding sites and using insecticides, are essential in reducing the mosquito population. However, vaccination is crucial in enhancing herd immunity and reducing severe cases.³

Examples from Asian countries showcase the success of combined efforts:

- **Thailand:** Investment in dengue vaccines and public health campaigns led to reduced dengue-related deaths.⁴
- **Indonesia:** Annual budgeting for dengue control, including vaccination, helped manage the disease effectively.⁵
- **Singapore:** Combined dengue vaccination and vector control, supported by public education and legislation, achieved low dengue transmission levels.⁶

SUPPORT FOR OPLAN BALIK-ESKWELA VACCINATION PROGRAMS AND ADULT VACCINATION

The medical community strongly supports the Oplan Balik-Eskwela vaccination program implemented by the Department of Health and the Department of Education, which focuses on protecting children from preventable diseases like measles, mumps, rubella, and more. This program is vital in restoring public confidence in vaccination, also emphasizing the importance for adults to stay updated with vaccinations to prevent severe diseases.

REBUILDING VACCINE CONFIDENCE

There is significant drop in vaccine confidence from 93% in 2015 to 32% in 2018 as an impact of the CYD-TDV controversy.⁷ The effect of decreased vaccine confidence has been exemplified by the 2019 measles outbreak wherein it recorded 47,871 cases and 632 deaths.^{8,9} In this regard, we urge the medical community to share accurate vaccine related information and provide counselling to their patients whenever necessary so that patients can come up with informed decision regarding vaccination.

PROMOTING ACCURATE INFORMATION

We urge everyone to share accurate information and support educational efforts about the benefits of vaccines. Promoting understanding and trust can help reduce fear and confusion surrounding vaccination.

TRUST IN REGULATORY BODIES

It is essential to trust the scientific rigor of regulatory bodies like the FDA that ensure the safety and efficacy of vaccines. We must rely on science, facts, and professional expertise.

COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC HEALTH

Together, with trust, unity, and commitment to factual information, the Philippines can aim for a healthier nation, protecting every Filipino family from preventable diseases like dengue. The medical community is dedicated to preventing and fighting infectious diseases through vector control, community education, and timely immunization for all ages.

By fostering a grateful and positive mindset, we stand here to protect every Filipino family from vaccine-preventable diseases, striving towards a safer and healthier nation.

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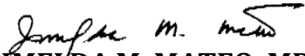
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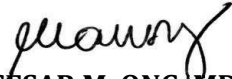
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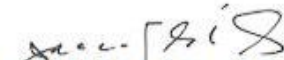
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