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LABOR ADVISORY NO. 01
Series of 2023

**FOOD AND WATERBORNE DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL
IN THE WORKPLACE**

Pursuant to Article 5 of the Labor Code of the Philippines as renumbered, Republic Act No. 11058 as implemented by Department Order No. 198, Series of 2018 (DO 198-18)¹, and in line with the commitment of the DOLE as a member of the Inter-Agency Committee on Environmental Health (IACEH)², particularly on the prevention and control of cases of cholera, diarrhea, and other food and waterborne diseases, the following guidelines are hereby issued:

I. Coverage

This Labor Advisory shall apply to all establishments and workplaces in the private sector.

II. Food and Waterborne Disease Prevention and Control

1. All employers shall provide their workers with free welfare facilities, particularly an adequate supply of safe drinking water, and sanitary and washing facilities pursuant to Section 19 of DO 198-18.
2. All establishments and workplaces engaged as drinking water service providers, bulk water suppliers, water refilling station operators; ice manufacturers; food establishments, commercial, industrial and institutional buildings that use/supply/serve drinking water; and other covered entities are advised to conform with the provisions of the Department of Health Administrative Order No. 2017-0012³ and Chapter 2 of Presidential Decree No. 856⁴ (PD 856) prescribing the standards and procedures on drinking water quality.
3. All establishments where food and/or drinks are manufactured, processed, stored, sold or served for public consumption are advised to secure the necessary permits from the local health office and conform to the requirements pursuant to Chapter 3 of PD 856, and other food safety-related issuances.
4. All employers shall continue to implement their Occupational Safety and Health Program, which shall include, as may be practicable, the following:

¹ Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act No. 11058

² Executive Order No. 489, s. 1991

³ Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water of 2017

⁴ Code on Sanitation of the Philippines

- a. Promotion of the importance of safe water supply and well-maintained sanitation facilities;
- b. Conduct of awareness raising activities on the basic information about food and waterborne diseases;
- c. Provision of necessary assistance and access to treatment of employees in need of immediate medical attention in cases of cholera, diarrhea, or any food and waterborne diseases in workplaces; and
- d. Advocacy for the families of their workers and respective communities.

III. Reporting of Cases

Workplace incidents of cholera, diarrhea, and other food and waterborne diseases shall be reported by the safety officer to the Local Government Unit of their locality and to the Department of Health, pursuant to Republic Act No. 11332⁵. Said report shall contain the details and sources of cases and the results of the investigation.

IV. Provision of Appropriate Assistance

The DOLE Regional Offices shall provide the appropriate assistance by:

- a. promoting basic personal hygiene, food, and water sanitation practices during its enforcement activities;
- b. disseminating information through distribution/website posting of IEC materials on food and waterborne diseases; and
- c. participating in the nationwide information campaign for the prevention and control of food and waterborne diseases.

Please be guided accordingly.



BIENVENIDO E. LAGUESMA
Secretary

16 January 2023

Dept. of Labor & Employment
Office of the Secretary



⁵ Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act