



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region VII, Central Visayas
DIVISION OF CITY SCHOOLS – TAGBILARAN CITY
City of Tagbilaran



July 21, 2016

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 364 s. 2016

**CONDUCT OF EAR EXAMINATIONS AND ADMINISTER PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS TO ASSESS
MEMORY AND COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT**

To: Heads, Private/Public Elementary & Secondary Schools
All Others Concerned

1. This is with reference to the letter received from Marilla G. Lucero, M.D., MSc., Ph.D., Chief Science Research Specialist of Research Institute for Tropical Medicine – Department of Health, informing this Office to conduct ear examinations and administer the psychological test to assess memory and cognitive development of those pupils/students who were participants of the ARIVAC (Acute Respiratory Infection Vaccines) Project conducted from the year 2000 to 2004.
2. The School Heads are hereby requested to allow the researchers to conduct the said activity, provided that classes shall not be adversely affected in cognizant to the time-on-task policy of the Department. For details, please see attached letter.
3. For your information, dissemination, guidance and compliance.


VIRGINIA C. ZAPANTA, Ed.D., CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent 



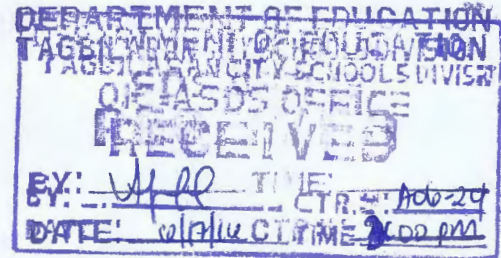
Research Institute for Tropical Medicine - Department of Health

9002 Research Drive, Filinvest Corporate City Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1781 Philippines
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June 10, 2016

Dr. Virginia C. Zapanta, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent
City Schools Division
City of Tagbilaran, Bohol



Dear Dr. Zapanta,

Diozele Samictores
09173042245

Greetings!

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) of the Department of Health (DOH) will conduct a study entitled "Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine [PCV] Impact on Cognitive Development" in Bohol. Preparatory activities are already starting. This study is an offshoot of the ARIVAC Project (Acute Respiratory Infection Vaccines) conducted in 2000 to 2004 wherein 12,000 children under six months of age in Bohol participated in a randomized controlled study on the effect of PCV on radiographic pneumonia in children. The study provided evidence that PCV could prevent radiographic pneumonia in Filipino children (1).

A systematic review of seven studies on the effect of PCV on acute otitis media (AOM) showed that the vaccine could also prevent AOM in children (2), an illness which could lead to chronic suppurative otitis media (CSOM) and probable hearing impairment. The RITM through this PCV impact study aims to follow-up the participants of the ARIVAC project and determine the presence of hearing impairment in this cohort of children who are now between 13 to 16 years old. It is believed that hearing impairment might have an impact on cognitive development. It is in this context that we are providing to the Department of Education here in Bohol, the plans for the conduct of this study.

We plan to track down the children to know where they are residing. We will obtain informed consent from the parents and assent from the ARIVAC children participants to conduct ear examination, hearing and cognitive tests, and to get a copy of their school grades from Grade 1 to the last school grade attended by the child. We hope that the families will have these records stored in their houses. In case the records are not with the families, we will proceed to the schools that the children attended and obtain these records of grades from the schools. The project already has the names of all the children in the



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ARIVAC project and we are confident that we can determine the schools where the children studied.

We would also like to make arrangements with the school officials that we be allowed some time to conduct the ear examinations and administer the psychological tests to assess memory and cognitive development. We will discuss this with you as well.

We hope that this letter explains clearly the objective of the study, and the plans we have for this project. Moreover, we hope that our activities will not in any way interfere with those of the Department of Education here in Tagbilaran City.

Thank you very much for your assistance.

ALL SCHOOLS HEADS,

Kindly accommodate the said request, provided classes will not be disrupted.

Sincerely,

Marilla G. Lucero, M.D., MSc., PhD
Chief Science Research Specialist
Research Institute for Tropical Medicine
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

MARCELO K. FALISPIS, Ed.D.
OIC ASDS

References:

1. Lucero MG, Nohynek H, Williams G, et al. Efficacy of an 11-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine against radiologically confirmed pneumonia among children less than 2 years of age in the Philippines: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Pediatr Infect Dis J.* 2009 Jun;28(6):455-62. doi: 10.1097/INF.0b013e31819637af.
2. Jansen AG, Hak E, Veenhoven RH, et al. Pneumococcal conjugate vaccines for preventing otitis media. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2009;(2):CD001480.



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