



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

01 October 2021

HON. FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

Dear Secretary Duque:

Greetings!

By virtue of Republic Act 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, health technology assessment (HTA) shall be institutionalized as a fair and transparent priority-setting mechanism to provide financing and coverage recommendations on health technologies to be funded by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

In light of the public health emergency, the Health Technology Assessment Unit (HTAU) has been reviewing COVID-19 technologies, including COVID-19 vaccines. In line with the procurement plans of the government for the National COVID-19 Vaccination Program for the 2022 implementation, the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) respectfully submits **its recommendations on pediatric vaccination** of the following COVID-19 vaccines:

- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine
- COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna
- COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca
- SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell), Inactivated [CoronaVac]
- Janssen Ad26.COV2.S (COVID-19) Vaccine

The HTAC maintains its recommendation to use Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine among adolescents aged 16 to 17 years and extends this recommendation for use in children aged 12 to 15 years. Also, HTAC recommends extending the use of COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna among children aged 12 to 17 years. Moreover, HTAC recommends compliance to standard vaccination program protocols in introducing vaccines for children with only Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

Furthermore, this recommendation shall be revisited to possibly include children younger than 12 years old once data for this age group becomes available.

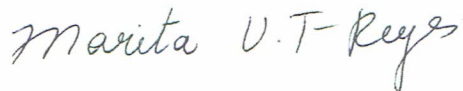
On the other hand, **HTAC does not currently recommend the use of AstraZeneca, CoronaVac, and Janssen among children and adolescents (12 to 17 years old)** due to current limited clinical evidence on their use in the pediatric population.

The criteria considered by HTAC in crafting its recommendations for pediatric vaccination as well as the summary of evidence are shown in the annex of this letter.

We thank you for the opportunity to be of assistance to the Department of Health.

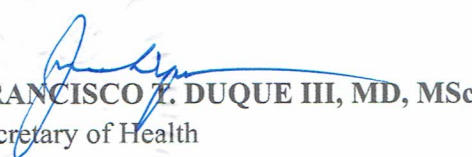
Respectfully yours,

For the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC):



MARITA V. TOLENTINO-REYES, MD
Chair, HTAC

Approval of the HTAC Recommendation:



FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

CC: Undersecretary Charade B. Mercado-Grande
Undersecretary Maria Rosario Singh-Vergeire