

THE A4 PRIORITY GROUP OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE DEPLOYMENT PLAN

Background

1. The “implementation of Prevention, Detection, Isolation, Treatment and Reintegration shall remain a cornerstone response to prevent further transmission and shall be a shared responsibility of the national government, local government units, private sector and the public.”¹ The “deployment of COVID-19 vaccines is just among the solutions²” to address the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, it is acknowledged that accelerated vaccine deployment can facilitate the safe reopening of economic sectors.
2. Given the scarcity of vaccine supply, especially during the first few months of vaccine deployment, it is important to identify sectors of society who are most vulnerable to COVID19, either because of their greater exposure to COVID19 cases (health care workers), or because their physiological characteristic make them more susceptible to the very adverse effects of COVID19, if they get infected (the elderly and persons with co-morbidities), or because their line of work limits their ability to protect themselves against COVID19.

A4 Priority Group

3. To facilitate the safe reopening of economic activities, COVID-19 vaccines will be deployed to cover priority economic sectors, based on the following:
 - a. Sectors or groups that have high levels of interaction with or exposure to the public and cannot dutifully practice the minimum public health standards (MPHS) at work; and
 - b. Sectors or groups that are needed to ensure security, consumer and worker safety, and those working in priority government projects.

¹ DOH Department Memorandum 2021-0099

² Interim NITAG Resolution No. 5, series 2021.

4. Economic sectors with high levels of interaction with or exposure to the public and cannot dutifully practice the minimum public health standards (MPHS) at work

These economic sectors are engaged in Services, further filtered by the ability of workers to maintain a bubble, or to limit interaction with an identified group. Examples are commuter transport drivers/operators (land, air and sea), food and small parcel delivery workers, market vendors, hotel and restaurant frontline workers, financial services frontline workers, etc. In the public sector, these are the frontline workers in government in charge of clearances, permits, taxes, incentives and field personnel of the Philippine Statistics Authority.

5. Economic sectors that are needed to ensure security, consumer and worker safety and working in priority government projects.

These consist of workers in the public and private sectors, who also interact closely with the public in the execution of their job. In the private sector, these are workers in food manufacturing, logistics, and security. In the public sector, these are government officials in charge of enforcing minimum health standards; government personnel who inspect retail establishments and workplaces to ensure consumer and worker safety; government personnel in charge of border security (land, air, sea). Construction workers in government infrastructure projects are also considered under this category. Teaching and related personnel in higher education institutions (HEIs) who teach medical and allied medical courses are also considered in this category.

6. **Table 1** is a list of the industry/sectors that meet the criteria above:

**Table 1. List of A4
Industry/Sectors**

Accommodation and Food Service Activities
Transportation including Logistics Services and Gas Stations
Public Administration and Defense
Manufacturing (food, beverages, medical and pharmaceutical products)
Food Retail Trade (grocery, supermarkets; public and private wet and dry market, sari-sari and convenience stores)
Activities of Religious Organization
Public Construction
Financial Service, except insurance
Medical and allied medical programs in selected Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

7. It should be noted that only frontline workers in the industry/sectors listed in Table 1 are included in the A4 priority group, with the exception of those in the manufacturing of food, beverage, medical and pharmaceutical products and construction workers in government infrastructure projects.

8. Table 2 is a detailed list of workers eligible under A4.

Table 2. List of Eligible Workers in the A4 Industry/Sectors

A4.1	<p>Commuter <u>transport</u> (land, air, and sea), including <u>logistics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motorcycle (e.g., <i>angkas</i>) and tricycle drivers• Car, taxi, van drivers (including jeepney, taxi/fx drivers), transport network vehicle service (TNVS)• Bus drivers, train/tram operators• Truck drivers and helpers (<i>pahinante</i>)• Active seafarers, domestic or international (with recorded sea service within the last 2 years)• Aircraft pilots and other associate professionals• Transport conductors
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel attendants and travel stewards (includes ship stewards) • Luggage porters • Service station attendants (includes gasoline attendants) • Cleaners and janitors in stations, terminals, and airports
A4.2	<p>Public and private wet and dry market vendors; frontline workers in grocery, supermarkets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stall and Market Salespersons • Shopkeepers (e.g., cashier, shelf fillers, baggers...) • Retail Trade Operators and Frontliners • Shop Supervisors • Sorting Clerks • Package Deliverers • Sari-Sari Store <i>tindero/tinder</i> • Cleaners and janitors in markets, groceries and supermarkets
A4.3	<p>Workers in manufacturing for food, beverage, medical and pharmaceutical products</p>
A4.4	<p>Frontline workers in food retail, including food service delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Service Counter Attendants • Waiters • Restaurant Managers • Fast Food Preparers • Street Food Vendors • Chefs, Cooks, Kitchen Helpers • Food Stall (“Carinderia”) workers • Food home delivery • Cleaners and janitors in food establishments
A4.5	<p>Frontline workers in Financial Services in private and government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank Tellers and Related Clerks • Cashiers and Ticket Clerks • Pawnbrokers, Frontliners in Remittance Centers, Bayad Centers
A4.6	<p>Frontline workers in hotels and accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel receptionists and concierge • Cleaning and housekeeping personnel in hotels, and similar establishments • Workers in hotel and accommodation not elsewhere classified (parking attendant, bellboy, usher, etc.)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaners and janitors of hotels and accommodation
A4.7	Priests, Pastors, rabbis, imams or such other religious leaders regardless of denomination
A4.8	Security guards/personnel assigned in A4 establishments, offices, agencies, and organizations
A4.9	Frontline workers in news media, both private and government
A4.10	Customer-facing personnel of telecoms, cable and internet service providers, electricity distribution, water distribution utilities
A4.11	<p>Frontline personnel in basic education and higher education institutions and agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Education (DepEd) teachers and education support personnel • Basic education private school teachers • Higher education teachers • Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) frontline personnel (accredited TVET trainers and competency assessors) • Frontline workers of CHED, PRC, and other agencies in charge of administering board exams, bar • Cleaners and janitors in basic and higher education institutions/agencies
A4.12	Overseas Filipino Workers not classified above, and scheduled for deployment within 2 months
A4.13	<p>Frontline workers in law/justice, security, and social protection sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customs and borders Inspectors • Prosecutors, Court personnel • Commissioned Armed Forces Officers • Non-Commissioned Armed Forces Officers • Armed Forces Occupations, Other Ranks • Firefighters • Police Officers • Prison Guards • Public Investigators • Social welfare personnel worker in Crisis Intervention Units
A4.14	Frontline government workers engaged in operations of government transport system, quarantine inspection, worker safety inspection and other activities indispensable to the COVID response

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Transport Workers (LRT, MRT, PNR) and workers at ports and airport terminals • Department of Agriculture (DA) frontliners (<i>inspectors, quarantine, bantay presyo, DA Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita store clerk</i>) • Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) frontliners • Local Chief Executives (LCEs) (governors, mayors, barangay captains) • DOLE inspectors • DTI inspectors
A4.15	<p>Frontline government workers in charge of tax collection; assessment of businesses for incentives; election; national ID; data collection personnel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Tax and Excise Officials • Government Licensing Officials • Board of Investment (BOI) frontliners (<i>examiners</i>) • POEA frontliners • COMELEC voter registration workers • PhilSys Registration frontliners • Data collection and price monitoring personnel of PSA, DTI, DA
A4.16	Diplomatic Community and Department of Foreign Affairs personnel in consular operations
A4.17	Department of Public Works and Highways personnel in charge of monitoring government infrastructure projects

9. Eligible workers under the A4 category shall be pre-registered according to their place of work.

10. OFWs who belong in any of the subgroups A4.1 – A4.12 and are scheduled for deployment within two months will pre-register at the LGU where they reside.

Partnership with Establishments, Agencies and Organizations (EOOs)

11. To facilitate vaccine deployment to the A4 priority groups, there should be stronger engagement with establishments, agencies and organizations, even partnerships with respect to the following:

- a. EOs are encouraged to widely disseminate among their workers and personnel information on vaccine deployment activities, procedures, etc. in the LGUs.
- b. EOs shall issue a Certificate of A4 Eligibility (e.g. employment, deployment, assignment) to their workers/personnel who belong to the A4 priority subgroup as specified in Table 2. The Certificate shall be signed by any of the following: owner of establishment, highest ranking personnel of the agency or organization with office located in the LGU, head of the Human Resources unit. A sample Certificate of A4 Eligibility is given in Annex 1.
- c. EOs are advised to adopt a schedule system for their workers taking into consideration possible adverse reactions of vaccinees, which may result in workers taking time off from work. Workers will register for the appointment with the advised schedule of their employer;
- d. EOs are encouraged to provide logistics support (including transport) to facilitate vaccination of their workers, and coordinate with LGUs for the vaccination. Due consideration and care should be given to vaccinees, especially those who manifest adverse reactions needing more time to recover before going back to work.

12. OFWs that fall under any of subgroups A4.1-A4.12 shall submit their latest verified employment contract.

13. LGUs are advised to facilitate the registration and appointments of informal sector workers. They will also issue the required Certificate of A4 Eligibility.

Estimated Number of Workers in the A4 Priority Group

14. Based on the 2015 Census of Population, the 2018 List of Establishments and other administrative data, there is an estimated **12,832,969** workers in the A4 priority group. The details are given in Table 3. Needless to say, the numbers given are only indicative and will need to be finalized specific to each LGU during the microplanning stage.

Table 3. Estimated Number of Eligible Workers in the A4 Industry/Sectors

	Description	Estimated Number
A4.1	Commuter transport (land, air, and sea), including logistics	3,671,751
A4.2	Public and private wet and dry market vendors; frontline workers in grocery, supermarkets; delivery services	4,363,310
A4.3	Workers in manufacturing for food, beverage, medical and pharmaceutical products	176,883
A4.4	Frontline workers in food retail, including food service delivery	1,515,203
A4.5	Frontline workers in Financial Services in private and government	467,377
A4.6	Frontline workers in hotels and accommodation	169,260
A4.7	Priests, Pastors, rabbis, imams or such other religious leaders regardless of denomination	22,606
A4.8	Security guards/personnel assigned in the establishments, offices, agencies, and organizations identified in the list of priority industry/sectors	654,105
A4.9	Frontline workers in news media both private and government	TBD
A4.10	Customer-facing personnel of telecoms, cable and internet service providers, electricity distribution, water distribution utilities	TBD
A4.11	Frontline personnel in basic education and higher education institutions and agencies	1,266,565
A4.12	OFWs not classified above, and scheduled for deployment within 2 months	140,000 per month

A4.13	Frontline workers in law/justice, security, and social protection sectors	316,842
A4.14	Frontline government workers engaged in operations of government transport system, quarantine inspection, worker safety inspection and other activities indispensable to the COVID response	80,158
A4.15	Frontline government workers in charge of tax collection; assessment of businesses for incentives; election; national ID; data collection personnel	50,777
A4.16	Diplomatic Community and Department of Foreign Affairs personnel in consular operations	10,000
A4.17	Department of Public Works and Highways personnel in charge of monitoring government infrastructure projects	68,132
Total of A4.1 – A4.12		12,832,969*

* excluding number of workers under A4.9-A4.10.