



Department of Budget and Management
Department of Health



Joint Circular No. 1, s. 2021

June 16, 2021

TO : Heads of Departments, Bureaus, Offices, and Agencies of the National Government, and Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations (GOCCs); Local Government Units (LGUs); and All Others Concerned

SUBJECT : Guidelines on the Continued Grant of the COVID-19 Special Risk Allowance (SRA) to Public and Private Health Workers (HWs) Pursuant to Administrative Order (AO) No. 42, s. 2021

1.0 Background

- 1.1 AO No. 42 dated June 1, 2021 authorizes the continued grant of the **COVID-19 SRA**, as previously provided under AO No. 36¹, s. 2020, in the amount not exceeding **P5,000 per month** to public and private HWs who directly cater to or in contact with COVID-19 patients.

Said AO added that the continuing State of Public Health Emergency warrants the further grant of the COVID-19 SRA to recognize the heroic and invaluable contributions of our HWs throughout the country, who bravely and unselfishly risk their lives and health by being at the forefront of national efforts to respond to the pandemic.

- 1.2 AO No. 42 is in accordance with Section 4(h) of Republic Act (RA) No. 11494 which authorized, among others, the grant of the COVID-19 SRA to all public and private HWs directly catering to or in contact with COVID-19 patients during the state of national emergency as declared by the President.

Further, AO No. 42 is in line with Section 1 of RA No. 11519, which extended the availability for release, obligation, and disbursement of appropriations authorized under RA No. 11494, including, among others, the automatic appropriations of new programs, projects and activities pursuant to Section 4 thereof, until June 30, 2021.

¹ Authorizing the Grant of COVID-19 Special Risk Allowance to Private and Public Health Workers Directly Catering to or in Contact with COVID-19 Patients During the State of National Emergency, dated November 16, 2020



- 1.3 **Department of Budget and Management (DBM)-Department of Health (DOH) Joint Circular (JC) No. 2²** was previously issued on November 25, 2020 to provide the specific guidelines on the grant of the COVID-19 SRA.

2.0 Purpose

This Joint Circular is issued to prescribe the amended guidelines on the grant of the COVID-19 SRA pursuant to AO No. 42, s. 2021.

3.0 Guidelines and Conditions on the Grant of the COVID-19 SRA

The national government agencies, GOCCs, and LGUs are authorized to **further grant the COVID-19 SRA**, which was provided under AO No. 36, s. 2020, **subject to the same terms, conditions, and exclusions therein, as well as those provided under DBM-DOH JC No. 2, s. 2020**, except as otherwise modified by AO No. 42, s. 2021.

Consistent with AO No. 42, s. 2021, hereunder are the additional guidelines on the grant of the COVID-19 SRA:

- 3.1 The grant of the COVID-19 SRA shall be pro-rated based on the number of days that the public and private HWs physically report for work in a month, as certified by the head of the hospital, laboratory, or medical and quarantine facility, or his/her authorized representative, reckoned from **September 15, 2020 until June 30, 2021**, as follows:

$$\text{COVID-19 SRA} = \frac{\text{P5,000}}{22 \text{ days}} \times \text{Number of Days Physically Reporting for Work During the Month}$$

- 3.2 All claims for the payment of the SRA to public and private HWs shall be validated by the DOH.

4.0 Funding Source

Pursuant to AO No. 42, s. 2021, the additional funding necessary for the continued grant of the SRA until June 30, 2021 shall be charged against any appropriate funding source as authorized under RA No. 11494, the appropriations for which have been extended for release, obligation, and disbursement until June 30, 2021, pursuant to Section 1 of RA No. 11519.

The DBM shall release the funds to the DOH for the payment of the COVID-19 SRA to qualified public and private HWs, upon submission of the necessary special budget request consistent with the existing budgeting, accounting and auditing laws, rules, and regulations.

² Guidelines on the Grant of the COVID-19 Special Risk Allowance to Public and Private Health Workers, dated November 25, 2020

5.0 Responsibilities of Agencies

Agencies shall be responsible for the proper implementation of the provisions of this Circular. The responsible officers shall be held liable for any payment not in accordance with the provisions hereof without prejudice to the refund by the employees concerned of any excess or unauthorized payments.

6.0 Resolution of Cases

Cases not covered by the provisions of this Joint Circular shall be referred to the DBM or the DOH, as appropriate, for resolution.

Conversely, all issues arising from the grant of the COVID-19 SRA to private HWs shall be resolved exclusively by the DOH.

7.0 Effectivity

This Joint Circular shall take effect immediately.


WENDEL E. AVISADO
Secretary
Department of Budget and Management




FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III
Secretary
Department of Health