

# COVID 19 REPORTING MEDIA GUIDE – MINDANAO



## VACCINES & CLINICAL TRIALS

### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

On November 4, President Duterte ordered the DOH central office and the Department of Trade and Industry to set a price cap on COVID-19 testing and kits on. The President emphasized the compliance with the price range is now one of the requirements for the accreditation and licensing of healthcare facilities and laboratories.

Former military chief Joselito Galvez Jr was appointed by President Duterte as the new Vaccine Czar and the chief implementer of the national policy on COVID.

The Philippine National Vaccine Roadmap was also presented detailing the 7 major stages which includes selection, acquisition, procurement, shipment, distribution, implementation and assessment of COVID-19 vaccines that become available in-country.

### QUICK FAQs

World Health Organization said that if trials go as planned, vaccines could be ready by first or second quarter of 2021. The release will still depend on the results of the vaccine clinical trials. The Philippines is one of the countries participating in WHO-led collaboration of vaccine clinical trials.

The WHO collaborative Roadmap aims to:

- Use a global partnership to develop and evaluate vaccine candidates
- Identify vaccine candidates and their progress
- Define the desired characteristics of safe and effective vaccine to combat the pandemic
- Coordinate the clinical trials across the world – making effective vaccines available to all through the WHO-led global COVAX initiative.

The objective of evidenced -based research is to ensure a vaccine is safe and effective. It also aims to determine the vaccine dosage, the target groups (e.g. adults or children), the time schedule for administration and to determine those who may not get the vaccine.

Here's the vaccine production process according to Philippine's Department of Health

- Pre-clinical – Proof of concept, safety testing on animals like mice and monkeys
- Phase 1 – To assess the safety of a vaccine to a small number of people (10-100)
- Phase 2 –To test its safety and and its ability to induce immune responses 100-1000 people.

- Phase 3 – Randomized, controlled and blind testing in several thousand individuals. Efficacy is an important part of this phase.
- Phase 4 – Post Marketing Surveillance Trials to assess ongoing safety of the vaccine.

The Philippines is currently not capable of developing its own vaccine. Its government has been in talks with several countries and international organization that are in the process of developing and manufacturing of possible COVID19 vaccine. The Inter-agency task force (IATF) has approved the Philippines' participation in the COVAX Facility with resolution no: 58.

If you had the virus and recovered will you still be able or need to get the vaccine?

- Scientists do not know how long antibodies last after infection or whether they will protect against reinfection. New studies are showing that antibodies may last for up to three to four months in the body.
- So, while vaccine trials are being completed, it will be important for scientists to continue learning about COVID-19, particularly whether people who got sick with COVID-19 can be reinfected. The current vaccine trials will include immunizing people who have never been infected with SARS-CoV-2 and those who have been previously infected. We will soon know whether vaccination of those who have been previously infected affords more complete or longer lasting protection than those who were previously infected but haven't been vaccinated.

### Clickable Resources:

- [UPDATED INTERIM GUIDELINES ON EXPANDED TESTING FOR COVID-19](#)
- [ASKED QUESTIONS ON COVID-19 VACCINES](#)



## REPORTING TIPS FOR JOURNALISTS



**1 Always verify information** – ask for full copies of research before you report on it. Do not just rely on press releases or summaries. Consult with experts who are not involved in the study. Conduct due diligence to ensure your sources are credible while examining their profiles and followers.

Click to go to link of these useful readings:

- [Covering Medical Research – A Guide for Reporting on Studies](#)
- [Press release reporting is irresponsible — especially in a pandemic](#)

**2 Use of Terminologies** – if you have to use health and science terminologies related to vaccines, immediately explain it using simple language. Avoid using the terms “guaranteed” or “miraculous” as nothing in medical science is guaranteed and medicine is not a miracle.

- Click to go to link of these useful reading: [Coronavirus or COVID? A Glossary to Help Navigate Pandemic Vocabulary](#).

**3 Contextualize** – access to vaccines vary from one country to another. Always localize your story so that is relatable to the audience.

- Useful tools to explore: Google Trends provides curated, geographical search statistics around COVID-19, offering important clues to the most questions and concerns in your community.

**4 Maths, Metaphors and Data Visualisation** – be creative in explaining complex data but make sure you don’t distort facts. Ensure that you are using the right type of graph in your report as it may have a huge impact on the clarity and understanding of your data.

- Click to go to link of these useful reading: [Effective Data Visualisation in the Era of COVID-19](#)

**5 Humanize your story** – many people in the communities can’t wait to live their “normal” lives again. Vaccine and trials are more than about medical science development but you may also consider reporting on what it would mean for people’s livelihood, education and more. You may also consider telling the story of a trial participant who would be open to publicly talking about their experiences.

- Click to go to link of these useful reading: [The critical role that Philippine media play in covering COVID-19](#)