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January 20, 1993

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR  
No. // Series 1993

TO: All Regional Health Directors

SUBJECT: Establishment of Regional Epidemiology Units  
in Regional Health Offices

In line with the decentralization of health services and the need for strengthening technical capacity in Regional Offices, the creation of Regional Epidemiology Units (REUs) is hereby authorized. Such units will be within the Technical Division of the Regional Health Offices.

The mandate of each REU will be to provide services related to field health information systems, epidemiologic surveillance, epidemic control, and health status assessment of populations in their respective regions. This work will support the development and implementation of health programs by the Department of Health and various partners in local government units, other government agencies and the private sector.

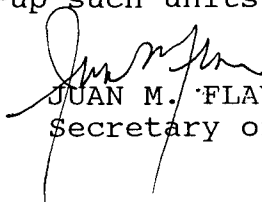
The functions of each REU are:

- Provide technical assistance to LGUs on epidemiology, particularly on disease prevention and control.
- Conduct epidemiologic studies including outbreak investigations, surveys, and program evaluation.
- Develop and maintain efficient surveillance systems.
- Train Local Health Personnel on data collection, analysis, and presentation.
- Collect, process, analyze, and disseminate information on vital health statistics and programs.
- Maintain a library of relevant articles, books, and other materials on public health.

Each REU shall have at least the following staff:

One full-time Field Epidemiologist  
One Sentinel Nurse  
One Sentinel Clerk  
One Administrative Clerk

Regional Health Offices should coordinate with the Health Intelligence Service/Field Epidemiology Training Program for any technical assistance/guidelines in setting-up such units.

  
JUAN M. FLAVIER, MD  
Secretary of Health