

AMDA Philippines – PCOM Makati

Workers are Heroes Too Advocacy

From late July to the end of August 2021, the Philippine College of Occupational Medicine (PCOM) Makati Chapter worked closely with AMDA Philippines to solicit from pharmaceutical companies to gather PPEs and personal kit package to be distributed among our informal workers within Makati City in response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Background and concept:

Informal workers and their families face additional health risks and economic impact. Many live and work in crowded public spaces with little or no access to water and sanitation, and have no access to health care. Because informal workers depend on their daily earnings to survive, they face the risk of falling into extreme poverty as a result of government-ordered lockdowns and economic disruptions. Women informal workers face additional challenges because of their care and domestic responsibilities. These informals and non-regular paid workers constitute the overwhelming majority of the labor market. They cannot afford prolonged idleness. No work-no pay means no food-no life for their impoverished families.

Realizing the informal worker's issues are addressed, AMDA Philippines and PCOM Makati Chapter strived to somehow make them feel they were not neglected and appreciated, recognizing that our informal workers are hero of his/her own. Informal economy workers, particularly in poor urban areas, are not properly informed about the virus, its symptoms and preventive measures such as physical distancing. If they continue working, they usually have no access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and hand-washing stations. Hence, our organizations initiated this PCOM Hero campaign by providing them personal kits (which contain alcohol sprayer, face shield, 10 surgical masks and a bottle of Pocari Sweat) attached with a friendly reminder flyer:

Be the **PCOM** Hero

in winning this pandemic



Prepare PPE
before heading
out.



Clean and
sanitize hands
frequently.



Observe minimum
health protocols.



Maintain good
health and well-
being.



Brought to you by:



Objectives:

1. Reducing the exposure of workers and their families to the virus and the risks of contagion by providing necessary personal kits
2. Lessening the excess burden of informal workers in the procurement of required PPE (face masks and face shield)
3. Recognize the importance of our informal workers in our economy
4. Providing opportunity for partnership with the community, public health officials and private health organizations
5. Simplifying the information dissemination campaign of the government on the health promotion, observance of health protocols and CoVid 19 prevention.

Activity:

September 13, 2021

In coordination with Ms Portia Chan of Brgy Poblacion Makati (Committee on Beautification and Social Order), we distributed around 125 personal kits to the following workers who passed by in an improvised station in Maria Aurora St, Brgy Poblacion:

- Makati Riders (a group of motorcycle riders organized by Makati City Gov't that tasked to distribute maintenance medications among patients under the care of Makati Health Department, personal kits and food package to CoVid patients)
- Taxi drivers
- Tricycle drivers
- Fruit and street food vendors
- Fast Food Delivery drivers
- Street sweepers and Park Maintenance staffs

Sponsors:

- Otsuka - Pocari Sweat
- Unilab UAP Division