



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII - CENTRAL VISAYAS
DIVISION OF CITY SCHOOLS - TAGBILARAN CITY

Office of the Schools Division
Superintendent

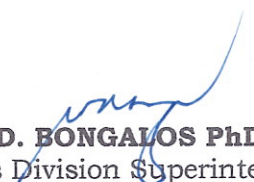
August 13, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 729 s. 2026

**ADVISORY ON THE INTENSIFIED IMPLEMENTATION ON LEPTOSPIROSIS AND
DENGUE PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEASURES IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

To: Schools Division Superintendent
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chiefs, CID and SGOD
All Elementary and Secondary Principals
All Others Concerned

1. This Memorandum refers to **Regional Memorandum No. 0786, s. 2026**, dated September 7, 2026, entitled ***“Advisory on the Intensified Implementation of Leptospirosis and Dengue Prevention and Control Measures in All Public Schools,”*** the contents of which are self-explanatory.
2. A copy of the Regional Memorandum is attached for information, guidance, and appropriate action.
3. All concerned are hereby directed to ensure the strict implementation of the prescribed leptospirosis and dengue prevention and control measures in their respective schools and offices.
4. Immediate and widest dissemination of this Memorandum to all concerned is hereby directed.


WILFREDA D. BONGALOS PhD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

WDB/JAL/SGOD



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII - CENTRAL VISAYAS



Office of the Regional Director

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

07 SEP 2026

No. **0786**, s. 2026

**ADVISORY ON THE INTENSIFIED IMPLEMENTATION ON LEPTOSPIROSIS AND
DENGUE PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEASURES IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

To: Schools Division Superintendents
Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. This Office, through the Education Support Services Division (ESSD), disseminates the advisories from the Office of the Undersecretary for Governance and Operations, on the *Intensified Implementation of Leptospirosis and Dengue Prevention and Control Measures in All Public Schools*.
2. All Schools Division Offices (SDOs) are requested to disseminate the advisories to schools and concerned individuals including
 - School Health and Nutrition Personnel;
 - Teaching and Non-teaching Personnel;
 - Learners and Parents; and
 - Community Partners.
3. Attached are the copies of the communication for reference.
4. For clarification and queries, please contact **Dr. Rogelio John D. Villamor Jr.**, Medical Officer IV, at rogelio.villamor@deped.gov.ph.
5. This Memorandum is for the information and guidance of all concerned.

 **DR. ARTURO B. BAYOCOT, CESO III**
Regional Director

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DepEd Tayo Region VII



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

ADVISORY

Consistent with the Department of Health's (DOH) issuance on the Prevention, Control, Management and Surveillance of Leptospirosis issued through DOH Department Memorandum 2023-0309, the Department of Education (DepEd) reminds all learners, teaching and non-teaching personnel, parents and guardians, and school communities to take precautionary measures against **leptospirosis**, particularly in areas experiencing heavy rains and flooding.

As reported by the Philippine News Agency (PNA) on August 24, 2026, citing data from the DOH, a total of **4,285 leptospirosis cases were recorded** as of 22 August 2026, with 845 additional cases reported over the preceding two-week period amid persistent rains associated with the enhanced southwest monsoon (Habagat) and tropical cyclones.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection caused by *Leptospira* bacteria. Infected animals, particularly rats and other rodents, may contaminate water, soil, and vegetation through their urine and other waste products. People may become infected through direct or indirect contact with water, soil, or other materials contaminated with the urine or body fluids of infected animals. **Wading or swimming in contaminated floodwater may pose a risk even in the absence of visible wounds**, although cuts, abrasions, and contact with the eyes, nose, mouth, or other mucous membranes may increase the risk of infection.

What Should School Communities Do?

All school communities are advised to observe the following preventive measures:

1. Avoid contact with floodwater.

- Do not swim, wade, play, or unnecessarily walk through floodwater.
- Avoid contact with muddy or potentially contaminated soil.
- Keep learners away from flooded areas within and around school premises.

2. Protect yourself when exposure cannot be avoided.

- Wear appropriate protective equipment, such as boots and gloves, when exposure to contaminated water or soil is necessary.
- Cover cuts, wounds, and other breaks in the skin with waterproof dressings.
- Wash exposed skin thoroughly with clean water and soap after accidental contact with floodwater.

3. Maintain clean and safe school surroundings.

- Properly dispose of garbage and food waste.
- Keep classrooms, canteens, storage areas, and other school facilities clean.
- Remove materials and waste that may provide food or shelter for rodents.
- Ensure proper drainage and removal of stagnant water whenever feasible.
- Coordinate with the Local Government Unit (LGU) for appropriate rodent-control and environmental sanitation measures.

Be Alert for Signs and Symptoms



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Individuals who have been exposed to floodwater or potentially contaminated soil should monitor for symptoms of leptospirosis, which may include:

- Fever;
- Muscle pain;
- Headache;
- Calf muscle pain; and
- Reddish eyes.

Severe cases may involve the liver, kidneys, or brain and may present with yellowish discoloration of the skin or eyes, dark-colored urine, light-colored stools, decreased urine output, or severe headache.

The incubation period and onset of symptoms may commonly be noted around **7–10 days after exposure**, although symptoms and the course of illness may vary.

Seek Early Medical Consultation

Learners and personnel who have waded, swum, or otherwise had significant exposure to floodwater or other potentially contaminated water or soil, with or without visible wounds, are advised to promptly consult the nearest health facility, Rural Health Unit, or City/Municipal Health Office for appropriate risk assessment and determination of whether post-exposure prophylaxis is indicated, consistent with prevailing DOH guidelines.

Antibiotics, including those used for post-exposure prophylaxis, shall not be self-administered and should be taken only upon the advice or prescription of an appropriately qualified health professional, taking into consideration the person's age, pregnancy status, medical history, contraindications, and nature of exposure.

For School Heads and School Health Personnel

School heads and school health personnel shall:

- strengthen health education and information dissemination on leptospirosis;
- monitor learners and personnel who may have been exposed to floodwater;
- facilitate prompt referral of symptomatic individuals to appropriate health facilities;
- ensure the timely recording and reporting of suspected or confirmed leptospirosis cases among learners and personnel through the prescribed DepEd monitoring and reporting mechanism;
- coordinate with the LGU, Rural Health Unit, City/Municipal Health Office, and other local health authorities;
- ensure that flooded school areas are appropriately cleaned and assessed for safety before use; and
- strengthen environmental sanitation and rodent-control measures within school premises.

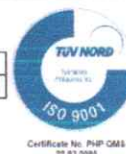
Schools are reminded that symptomatic individuals should be referred to qualified health professionals for proper assessment and management.

School-Based Monitoring and Reporting



Room 101, Rizal Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City 1600
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To facilitate standardized, timely, and efficient monitoring, DepEd shall make available an automated Dengue and Leptospirosis Case Monitoring and Reporting Tool for use by schools, Schools Division Offices (SDOs), Regional Offices (ROs), and the Central Office, accessible through this link (<https://bit.ly/schoolhealth2627diseasereport>).

Schools shall encode reported leptospirosis cases in the prescribed reporting tool within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of information on a case. Any death, unusual increase, or clustering of suspected or confirmed cases shall be immediately reported to the SDO and coordinated with the appropriate local health authorities, without waiting for the regular reporting cycle.

The DepEd monitoring and reporting mechanism shall be without prejudice to, and shall not replace, the mandatory notification and disease surveillance requirements of the Department of Health under Republic Act No. 11332, its implementing rules and regulations, and prevailing DOH issuances, including the Philippine Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (PIDSRS) system. Schools and DepEd offices shall coordinate with the appropriate local health office and/or epidemiology and surveillance unit for cases requiring notification to the DOH.

Health Education and Promotion

A compilation of materials for awareness and prevention of Leptospirosis cases in schools may be accessed through this link (<https://bit.ly/schoolhealth2627resources>).

DepEd calls on all members of the school community to remain vigilant and practice appropriate preventive measures, particularly during and after flooding, to reduce the risk of leptospirosis and other water- and flood-related diseases.

For questions or clarifications, please contact the **Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health Division (BLSS-SHD)** through email at blss.shd@deped.gov.ph.

For information, dissemination, and appropriate action

MALCOLM S. GARMA

Undersecretary for Governance and Operations



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ADVISORY

Consistent with the Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2018-0021, as amended by Administrative Order No. 2018-0021-A, on the Enhanced 4S Strategy Against Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika, and DOH Department Memorandum No. 2025-0420, entitled 'Reiteration of Vector Control Measures and Interim Guidelines on the 1-3-7 Intensified Vector Control Strategy for Dengue, the Department of Education (DepEd) calls for heightened vigilance and intensified implementation of dengue prevention and control measures in all public schools, particularly during the rainy season when conditions become favorable for the breeding and proliferation of *Aedes* mosquitoes.

Dengue is a viral infection transmitted through the bite of infected *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. These mosquitoes commonly breed in clean, stagnant water found in water containers, flower vases, discarded cans and bottles, old tires, clogged gutters, drainage areas, and other receptacles that can collect rainwater.

In accordance with DOH health advisories on dengue prevention and control, all DepEd offices and schools are enjoined to strengthen the following measures:

1. Implement the 4S Strategy Against Dengue

a. Search and Destroy

Schools shall regularly inspect and eliminate mosquito-breeding sites within and around school premises.

Particular attention shall be given to classrooms, school grounds, gardens, drainage areas, gutters, comfort rooms, storage areas, and other locations where stagnant water may accumulate.

The **4Ts or "4 O'Clock Habit" — Taob, Taktak, Tuyo, at Takip** — shall be integrated into routine school cleanup and environmental sanitation activities:

- **Taob** – turn over containers and receptacles that may collect rainwater;
- **Taktak** – empty and remove stagnant water from containers and other water-holding materials;
- **Tuyo** – drain and dry areas where water may accumulate; and
- **Takip** – properly cover water drums, pails, tanks, and other water-storage containers.

Schools shall also regularly clean gutters and drainage systems and remove discarded tires, cans, bottles, plastic containers, and other materials that may serve as mosquito-breeding sites.

b. Secure Self-Protection

Learners and personnel shall be encouraged to protect themselves from mosquito bites by:

- Wearing long-sleeved clothing and long pants, whenever practicable;

- Using mosquito repellents appropriately and according to product instructions; and
- Using appropriate physical barriers such as screens and mosquito nets, where applicable.

c. Seek Early Consultation

Learners and personnel exhibiting signs and symptoms suggestive of dengue shall be encouraged to seek **early medical consultation**.

Common signs and symptoms include:

- Sudden onset of high fever, usually lasting two (2) to seven (7) days;
- Headache and pain behind the eyes;
- Muscle and joint pain;
- Weakness or unusual fatigue;
- Skin rashes;
- Abdominal pain;
- Persistent vomiting; and
- Signs of bleeding, such as nosebleeds or unusual bleeding.

Schools shall facilitate prompt referral of suspected cases to the appropriate health facility or Local Health Office for proper assessment and management.

Adequate hydration should be maintained as advised by a health professional. Aspirin and other medicines that may increase the risk of bleeding should not be administered unless prescribed or recommended by a qualified health professional.

d. Support Fogging/Spraying in Hotspot or Outbreak Areas

Fogging or spraying shall be conducted only when indicated by the appropriate health authorities, particularly in identified dengue hotspot or outbreak areas.

Schools shall coordinate with the Local Government Unit (LGU), Local Health Office, and other health authorities concerned for appropriate vector-control interventions.

Fogging or spraying shall not replace the regular elimination of mosquito-breeding sites and environmental sanitation activities.

2. Strengthen School-Based Surveillance and Reporting

School heads and school health personnel shall strengthen monitoring of suspected dengue cases among learners and personnel.

Schools shall:

- Promptly refer and report any suspected or confirmed cases to the appropriate health facility or Local Health Office, through coordination with the Schools Division Office, for case verification and appropriate vector-control measures, consistent with the DOH 1-3-7 Intensified Vector Control Strategy for Dengue under Department Memorandum No. 2025-0420;
- immediately escalate any unusual increase, clustering, severe case, or dengue-related death for appropriate epidemiologic investigation and response;
- Maintain appropriate records and undertake reporting in accordance with existing DepEd and DOH surveillance and reporting protocols and applicable data privacy requirements.

To facilitate standardized, timely, and efficient reporting, all offices shall utilize the automated Dengue and Leptospirosis Case Monitoring and Reporting Tool. Prescribed reporting procedures and timelines may be downloaded through this link (<https://bit.ly/schoolhealth2627diseasereport>).

3. Intensify Dengue Health Education and Risk Communication

Schools shall conduct age-appropriate and evidence-based health education activities to increase awareness on dengue prevention and control.

Health promotion activities shall emphasize:

- Modes of transmission of dengue;
- Signs and symptoms requiring medical consultation;
- The 4S Strategy Against Dengue;
- The 4Ts or “4 O’Clock Habit”;
- Personal protection against mosquito bites;
- Proper environmental sanitation; and
- The importance of early consultation and appropriate medical management.

Learner-led activities, classroom discussions, school announcements, information campaigns, parent orientations, and other appropriate health promotion activities may be undertaken.

A compilation of materials for awareness and prevention of Dengue in schools may be accessed through this link (<https://bit.ly/schoolhealth2627resources>).

4. Intensify School Environmental Sanitation

Dengue prevention activities shall be incorporated into regular school cleanliness and environmental sanitation activities.

Schools are encouraged to utilize existing mechanisms such as Brigada Eskwela, Gulayan sa Paaralan, school cleanup drives, and school-community activities to sustain the elimination of mosquito-breeding sites.

School heads shall ensure regular inspection of the school premises and immediate correction of conditions that may contribute to mosquito breeding.

5. Strengthen School-Community and Inter-Agency Coordination

Regional Offices (ROs), Schools Division Offices (SDOs), and schools shall strengthen coordination with the DOH Centers for Health Development (CHDs), Provincial/City/Municipal Health Offices, LGUs, and other relevant partners.

Such coordination shall be undertaken particularly when there is:

- An unusual increase or clustering of dengue cases;
- A suspected outbreak or hotspot;
- A need for epidemiological investigation;
- Identification of significant mosquito-breeding sites; or
- A need for targeted vector-control measures.

6. Continuous Implementation and Monitoring

Dengue prevention and control measures shall be implemented continuously and intensified during periods of increased dengue risk, particularly during the rainy season.

Regional Offices and Schools Division Offices shall ensure that this Advisory is cascaded to all schools and that implementation is regularly monitored.

School heads, school health personnel, teaching and non-teaching personnel, learners, parents, and community partners are enjoined to work together in maintaining a clean, safe, and dengue-free school environment.

For information, guidance, and appropriate action.

MALCOLM S. GARMA
Undersecretary for Governance and Operations