

OFFICE OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR
NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION
GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
No.F.13 (3-62)-DFWPM/PHS/DEWORM/2018/ (Sub-I)

Dated 16th January 2020

To
Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro
Bishop of Agartala, Tripura

Subject: Request to facilitate for participation of Catholic schools/institutions in National Deworming Day February 2020.

Dear Most Rev. Bishop,

The state of Tripura moves towards the implementation of its tenth round of National Deworming Day round on February 17, 2020 followed by mop-up day on February 24, 2020. The state government continues to be committed to include between 1-19 years age group who are enrolled in Government, Government aided, private schools and out of school as well under the aegis of National Deworming Day since its outset in 2015.

2. A consistent, high quality and high coverage NDD program will contribute in reducing the STH (worm) prevalence and slow reinfection rates. State has taken initiatives like; campaign on handwashing and distribution of nail cutters to induce long-term behavior change for well-being of school children. With 9.7%¹ of children enrolled in private schools as per Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2016 report, it is important to deworm these children over the rounds across state. Since, State of Tripura has an overall prevalence of above 60% (prevalence survey report shared with Government) and it's necessary to deworm all children between 1-19 years of age over the rounds with a fixed day approach. Findings from prevalence survey conducted in states also suggests that prevalence of STH in private schools is more than those enrolled in government schools.

3. As per the targets discussed at State Coordination Committee Meeting State has substantial number of children enrolled in the private schools (including run by Missionaries). Main challenge in their inclusion under NDD is the apprehension of adverse events among private school management and parents. In this context, please find WHO circular dated 22 December 2014 (**copy enclosed**) wherein it is clarified that children may be treated with Albendazole even without food. The Adverse effects of Albendazole are rare and minor (nausea and intestinal discomfort).

4. Role of Private Schools is pivotal to success of NDD in the state so a directive may kindly be issued from your end to all Catholic Schools in the state to actively participate in the National Deworming Day. In that reference, we have developed some materials uploaded on google drive (link will be shared separately) which can be used on aforesaid platforms to sensitize private schools and parents at large on importance of deworming for children.



5. We hope timely dissemination of these documents among Catholic Schools under Agartala diocese will complement State's efforts in engaging Private schools in the upcoming NDD February 2020 round.

6. We look forward to your support and cooperation for successful implementation of NDD in the state.

Yours faithfully,

vc  6/14/1/2020
Mission Director (NHM)
Government of Tripura

Copy to:

1. The Director, Family Welfare & Preventive Medicine department, Government of Tripura for information.
2. The Director, Elementary Education department, Government of Tripura with request to direct the district level officials to strengthen the program for the upcoming NDD round.
3. The Director, Secondary Education department, Government of Tripura with request to direct the district level officials to strengthen the program for the upcoming NDD round.
4. The Director, Higher Education department, Government of Tripura with request to direct all institutions/Colleges affiliated or under Higher Education to strengthen the program for the upcoming NDD round.
5. The State Nodal Officer, NDD, DFW&PM department, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action.
6. All Chief Medical Officers - West Tripura / Khowai / Sepahijala / Gomati/South Tripura / Unakoti / North Tripura /Dhalai for information and necessary action
7. All District Education Officers - West Tripura / Khowai / Sepahijala / Gomati/South Tripura / Unakoti / North Tripura /Dhalai for information and necessary action
8. Principal Officer, Education, TTAADC, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action
9. Principal Officer, Social Welfare and Social Education, TTAADC, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action
10. All District Nodal Officers - West Tripura / Khowai / Sepahijala / Gomati/South Tripura / Unakoti / North Tripura /Dhalai for information and necessary action
11. The State Program Manager, Evidence Action, State Office, Tripura for information

Copy forwarded to: -

1. PS to the Secretary, Health & Family Welfare department, Government of Tripura for kind information to the Secretary.
2. PS to the Secretary, School Education department, Government of Tripura for kind information to the Secretary.
3. The CEO, TTAADC, Government of Tripura for kind information

vc  6/14/1/2020
Mission Director (NHM)