

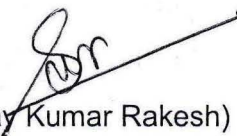
**SUBJECT: JOINT DIRECTIVES - NATIONAL DEWORMING PROGRAM, SEPTEMBER, 2020**


1. Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH), also called parasitic worms is a significant public health concern for India. Evidence has shown the detrimental impact of STH infestation on physical growth, anaemia, undernutrition and cognitive development as well as poor attendance at school. To combat this issue Tripura has been conducting biannual rounds of deworming as per the Government of India's notification and WHO recommended treatment strategy since 2015.
2. The upcoming National deworming program (**September 28 - October 5, 2020**) round in Tripura is aimed for implementation across all 8 districts in the state keeping into consideration the precautions to be taken due to COVID-19. The state government has decided for a community-based approach of deworming through engaging frontline functionaries (ASHA/AWW/ANM/MPW) with door-to-door administration of Albendazole tablet.
3. All children and adolescents in the age group 1-19 years will be dewormed at the household level by the ASHA/ AWW in the presence of the parent/ guardian/caregiver maintaining adequate COVID- 19 safety precautions.
4. A detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for implementation of the upcoming National deworming program during COVID-19 has been developed by the state health department and is attached as **Annexure A** for smooth implementation of the program.
5. All the stakeholder departments at all levels to work collectively for successful implementation of the upcoming community-based deworming program in Tripura. Following are expected key role and responsibilities:
  - I. **Program Preparedness review:** District Magistrates should review district-level program preparedness. This has to be completed between the first and second week of September 2020.
  - II. **Micro planning:** Block Nodal Officers and Medical Officers in-charge of all PHCs/PHSCs must draft micro- plans for community-based deworming. This should be done at least 2 to 3 weeks before the National deworming program.
  - III. **Community Mobilization:** ASHA and AWWs should prepare a due-list of all 1-19 years children and adolescents in their catchment area at least 3 weeks prior to the deworming program.
  - IV. **Distribution and transportation of Albendazole tablets, poster and reporting formats:** Health department to ensure adequate supply of Albendazole tablets, poster and reporting formats to last level at least two weeks prior to the deworming program.

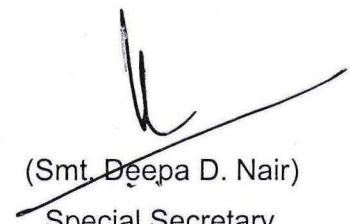


- V. **Provide training and IEC materials:** Health department will provide digital formats of training and IEC materials (training PowerPoint presentations, training videos, ASHA/AWW handout etc) by first week of September 2020 and the same will be uploaded on NHM website as well.
- VI. **Training:** Given the requirement of maintaining social distancing norms, all training is recommended to be conducted through digital platforms. Digital file of training videos and ASHA/AWW handout to be disseminated through WhatsApp.
- VII. **IEC activities:** All stakeholder departments should disseminate IEC materials through their respective platforms for wider awareness. Social Welfare and Social Education can disseminate to *anganwadi* workers through ICDS- CAS platform. Further, intensive IEC activities like Radio Jingle, TV spots, Newspaper ads and miking will be done.
- VIII. **Reporting:** All frontline workers and concerned persons to follow state specific reporting timelines and cascade.
- IX. **During implementation week (September 28 to October 5, 2020):** All frontline workers (ASHA, ANM/MPW, AWW) should strictly follow all prescribed safety measures in the context of COVID-19. The identified containment zones/ houses that are quarantined will be excluded from the deworming programme. Drug administration will be conducted after they are de-notified by district and/ or state administration.

We are confident that with your cordial support, the upcoming community-based deworming program will be successfully implemented in Tripura and we will collectively be able to reach out to all the children in the age group of 1-19 years and help improve their quality of life with improved health and educational outcomes.

  
(Shri Sanjay Kumar Rakesh)  
Additional CS  
Dept. of Health & FW

  
(Smt. Saumya Gupta)  
Secretary  
Dept. of School Education

  
(Smt. Deepa D. Nair)  
Special Secretary,  
Dept. of Edu. (SW & SE)

**To**

All DMs, CMOs, DEOs, DISE, PO- Education, SW&SE, Health, TTAADC, MOIC, DNOs, BNO, CDPOs, Inspector of School, District ASHA Program Managers, ASHAs, ASHA facilitators ANMs, MPWs, MPS, *Anganwadis*, ICDS Supervisors and all concerned

Copy to:

1. The Mission Director, NHM, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action.
2. The CEO, TTAADC, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action.
3. The Director, Family Welfare and PM, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action.

4. The Director of Secondary Education, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action.
5. The Director of Elementary Education, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action.
6. The Director of Higher Education, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action.
7. The Director of Social Welfare & Social Education, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action.
8. The State Program Officer, RCH, NHM, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action.
9. The State Nodal Officer (Deworming Intervention), Government of Tripura for information and necessary action
10. In-charge, State IEC cell, NHM, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action.
11. The Nodal officer, RBSK, NHM, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action.
12. The State ASHA Program Manager, NHM, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action.
13. The State Program Manager, Evidence Action, Tripura for information and facilitation

**Copy also forwarded to: -**

1. PS to the Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura for kind information to the Chief Secretary
2. Deworming secretariat, CH, MoHFW Gol, New Delhi for kind information.
3. The Country Director, Evidence Action, New Delhi for kind information.

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