

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF
FAMILY WELFARE AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA

No.F.13 (3-62)-DFWPM/PHS/DEWORM/2018/ (Sub-I)

Dated 18th June 2019

To
The District Magistrate & Collector
West Tripura / Khowai / Sepahijala / Gomati/
South Tripura / Unakoti / North Tripura /Dhalai

Subject: Request to facilitate private school engagement including pre-primary private schools in National Deworming Day August 2019

Sir,

As the state of Tripura moves towards the implementation of its ninth round of National Deworming Day round on August 8, 2019 followed by mop-up day on February 14, 2019. The state government continues to be committed to include private schools 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 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 as high as those enrolled in government schools.

3. As per the targets discussed at SCCM, state has substantial number of children enrolled in the private schools. 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). Further, engagement of pre-primary private school in NDD is again another challenge due to operational and administrative issue.

4. This results in low participation from private schools in NDD since planning and preparatory activities of NDD like coordination committee meetings and trainings at districts & blocks ultimately loss of opportunity to deworm a substantial number of children. However private school coverage report during NDD February 2019 and findings from independent monitoring were encouraging (**Annexure A**).

5. Engaging private schools in district and block coordination committee meetings, and special meetings called by District Magistrate has shown good results in their overall participation for the program. These engagement efforts should be continued in upcoming NDD round as well. Hence role of District Magistrates is pivotal to success of NDD in the state so a directive from your kind office to all private schools including pre-primary private schools will facilitate their participation in NDD.

6. Further, State recommends engagement of private schools at this stage of program implementation when district and block level training are being planned. In that reference, we have developed some materials uploaded here on **google drive**, which can be used on aforesaid platforms to sensitize private schools and parents at large on importance of deworming for children.

7. We hope timely dissemination of these documents will complement state efforts in engaging private schools in the upcoming NDD August 2019 round in the State.

8. We look forward to continue cooperation and support

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully

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17-6-19

(Dr. SK Chakma)

Director, Family Welfare and
Preventive Medicine, Government of
Tripura

Copy to:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The State Nodal Officer, NDD, DFW&PM, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action.
5. All Chief Medical Officers - West Tripura / Khowai / Sepahijala / Gomati/South Tripura / Unakoti / North Tripura /Dhalai for information and necessary action
6. All District Education Officers - West Tripura / Khowai / Sepahijala / Gomati/South Tripura / Unakoti / North Tripura /Dhalai for information and necessary action
7. Principal Officer, Education, TTAADC, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action
8. Principal Officer, Social Welfare and Social Education, TTAADC, Government of Tripura for information and necessary action
9. All District Nodal Officers - West Tripura / Khowai / Sepahijala / Gomati/South Tripura / Unakoti / North Tripura /Dhalai for information and necessary action
10. 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.
2. PS to the Secretary, School Education department, Government of Tripura for kind information.
3. The Mission Director, NHM, Government of Tripura for information.
4. The CEO, TTAADC, Government of Tripura for kind information

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17-6-19

(Dr. SK Chakma)