OFFICE OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR
NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION
GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
SIHFW Building, 1st Floor, Palace Compound, Agartala

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

Dated 26th December 2018

To
Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro
Bishop of Agartala, Tripura

Subject: Request to facilitate for participation of Catholic schools/institutions in National Deworming Day February 2019.

Dear Most Rev. Bishop,

As the state of Tripura moves towards the implementation of its eighth round of National Deworming Day round on February 08, 2019 followed by mop-up day on February 14, 2019. 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.

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 50% (prevalence survey report shared with Government) and to break worm transmission cycle it’s necessary to deworm all children between 1-19 years of age over the rounds with a fixed day approach. Findings form prevalence survey conducted in states also suggests that prevalence of STH in private schools is more than those enrolled in government schools.

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).

Limited participation of private schools in the NDD program can be attributed to their minimal engagement in coordination meetings and trainings. 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**, which can be used on aforesaid platforms to sensitize private schools and parents at large on importance of deworming for children.

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 February NDD 2019 round. Further, we request you to kindly share institution wise enrolled children (enclosed format) to state nodal officer, NDD via email at nddtripura@gmail.com on or before January 20, 2018.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully

(Dr. Shailesh Kumar Yadav, IAS)  
Mission Director (NHM)  
Govt. of Tripura

Copy to:

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. All District Nodal Officers - West Tripura / Khowai / Sepahijala / Gomati/South Tripura / Unakoti / North Tripura /Dhalai for information and necessary action
9. The State Program Manager, Evidence Action, State Office, Tripura for information

Copy forwarded to: -

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

(Dr. Shailesh Kumar Yadav, IAS)
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<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>District Name</th>
<th>Block Name</th>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Name of contact person</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
<th>email id</th>
<th>Pre-primary</th>
<th>Primary (I-V enrolment)</th>
<th>Upper Primary (VI-XII enrolment)</th>
<th>Up to 19 years but not completed 20 years studying at degree college</th>
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