



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Education  
REGION VI – WESTERN VISAYAS  
**SCHOOLS DIVISION OF AKLAN**

July 10, 2025

**DIVISION MEMORANDUM**

No. 331, s. 2025

**CONDUCT OF BI-ANNUAL SCHOOL- BASED MASS DRUG ADMINISTRATION (MDA)  
ACTIVITIES AND SCHEDULING OF SOIL TRANSMITTED HELMINTHIASIS  
PROGRAM (DEWORMING)**

To: OIC, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent  
Chief Education Supervisors  
Education Program Supervisors  
Public Schools District Supervisors  
Principals/Head Teacher In-Charge of the District  
Heads of Public Elementary, Secondary and Integrated Schools  
School Health and Nutrition Section Personnel  
Secondary School Nurses/School – Based Nurses  
District/School Health Coordinators  
Soil- Transmitted Helminthiasis Deworming Coordinators  
All Others Concerned

1. The Department of Health – Western Visayas Center for Health Development (DOH – WVCHD) through the Provincial Health Office of Aklan has delivered Albendazole 400 mg chewable tablets to the Schools Division of Aklan which were distributed to the different districts for the conduct of School-Based Mass Drug Administration (MDA). The drugs allocated however, are not sufficient to cover the enrolment of each districts.
2. District focal persons of Soil Transmitted Helminthiasis Program (Deworming) are advised to coordinate with their respective RHU focal person counterpart to request for additional Albendazole and scheduled date for Deworming.
3. Informed consent shall be secured from parents/guardian.
4. Enclosed is Department Circular No. 2024- 0249, **Guidelines on the Conduct of Mass Drug Administration (MDA) for Soil- Transmitted Helminthiasis ( STH ) for July 2024.**
5. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is strongly desired.

FOR THE SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT:

  
**ROLAND F. DEMOCRITO**  
Administrative Officer V

Enclosure: As stated.  
Reference: Department Circular No. 2024-0249  
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

**COMMUNICATION**

**SERVICE**

**STUDENTS**

**TEACHERS**

RMF/PMDC



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Website: <http://www.depedaklan.org>  
Email Address: [aklan.1958@deped.gov.ph](mailto:aklan.1958@deped.gov.ph)



June 25, 2024

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2024 - 0249

TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES;  
DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH  
DEVELOPMENT (CHD); MINISTER OF HEALTH-  
BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM  
MINDANAO (MOH- BARMM); CHIEFS OF MEDICAL  
CENTERS, HOSPITALS, SANITARIA, AND INSTITUTES;  
DOH ATTACHED AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS;  
INTEGRATED HELMINTHIASIS CONTROL PROGRAM  
MANAGERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Guidelines on the Conduct of Mass Drug Administration (MDA)  
for Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH) for July 2024

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommended preventive chemotherapy as a strategy to control morbidity from soil-transmitted helminth (STH) infections in individuals, especially at-risk groups living in endemic areas. This includes individuals without a previous diagnosis of STH infection. In relation to this, the Department of Health (DOH), through the Integrated Helminthiasis Control Program (IHCP), has been conducting Mass Drug Administration (MDA) activities for Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) that are addressed by preventive chemotherapy (PC) for a few years already. This includes STH as specified in Department Memorandum (DM) No. 2016-0212 entitled "*Guidelines on the Implementation of the Harmonized Schedule and Combined Mass Drug Administration (HSCMDA) for the Prevention and Control of Lymphatic Filariasis, Schistosomiasis and Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis.*" These MDAs were being simultaneously conducted both in schools and in the communities.

However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, mass gatherings were temporarily suspended affecting the delivery of routine deworming services. Thus, the following issuances were developed and disseminated, stipulating routine deworming of children ages 1—19 years old to be administered in the community through an individual approach (Fixed Post Approach or Outreach/ Home Visit Approach):

1. **DM No. 2020-0260:** *Interim Guidelines on Integrated Helminth Control Program and Schistosomiasis Control and Elimination Program During the COVID-19 Pandemic*
2. **Department Circular (DC) No. 2020-0302:** *Delivery of Routine Deworming Services under the Integrated Helminth Control Program (IHCP) during the COVID-19 Pandemic*

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Direct Line: 711-9502; 711-9503 Fax: 743-1829 • URL: <http://www.doh.gov.ph>; e-mail: [dohosec@doh.gov.ph](mailto:dohosec@doh.gov.ph)



The lifting of the Public Health Emergency status of COVID-19 through Proclamation No. 297 on July 22, 2023, resulted in the resumption of mass gathering activities. Thus, bi-annual routine deworming activities are allowed to be held again publicly in schools and communities.

Given the above scenario and per agreements made during the Other Infectious Diseases Prevention, Control and Elimination Division (OIDPCED) Program Implementation Review (PIR) on June 17-21, 2024, enumerated below are the directives emanating from the said key agreements in preparation for the July 2024 MDA (Round 2) for the information and reference of all the IHCP Regional Program Managers (PMs) and Coordinators.

**1. Information Education and Communication (IEC) Materials for the National Deworming Month, STH Brochure, and STH Deworming Video**

Coordinate and collaborate with the respective Health Education and Promotion Officers (HEPOs) of each region especially in the conduct of advocacy campaigns, to increase demand generation for STH deworming. For the IEC materials and STH Brochure, translation into the CHDs' respective dialects is highly encouraged while ensuring that this is aligned with the branding of the DOH Health Promotion Bureau (HPB).

Link:

**STH IEC Materials and Brochure:**

<https://tinyurl.com/STHDewormingIECmaterials>

**STH Deworming Video:**

<https://tinyurl.com/STHdewormingvideo>

**2. Denominator for MDA coverage**

**IHCP MDA Coverage Reporting**

Use the 'Actual Population' which is defined as the number of **1 to 19 years old** based on the master list in schools and in communities. Follow the guidance on Department Memorandum No. 2016-0212 entitled "*Guidelines on the Implementation of the Harmonized Schedule and Combined Mass Drug Administration (HSCMDA) for the Prevention and Control of Lymphatic Filariasis, Schistosomiasis and Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis*" page 6/44, on master listing.

**FHSIS Reporting**

On the generation of service coverage reports through the Field Health Services Information System (FHSIS), the Epidemiology Bureau (EB) shall continue to use 'Population Estimates' based on the projections released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) as the denominator. Alignment of guidelines on reporting mechanisms shall be discussed further with concerned units and shall be detailed in upcoming issuances.

For any concerns and clarifications on FHSIS Reporting on deworming services administered, kindly course via email at [fhsis@doh.gov.ph](mailto:fhsis@doh.gov.ph).

**3. Reporting of MDA coverage to IHCP**

Collect and consolidate the MDA coverage for real-time monitoring purposes using the Program-prescribed reporting template. This shall be used in conjunction with the



FHSIS reporting template, which is different from the data being collected by the Program. The Program data shall focus on the number of preschool-aged children (PSAC) and school-aged children (SAC) being dewormed, both in school and in the community. The final submission of MDA coverage will be on **September 30, 2024 (Monday)**.

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/STHMDARepor>

On the reporting of service coverage data through the FHSIS, it shall follow the latest FHSIS Manual of Procedure (MOP) and/or other applicable policies and guidelines. Further, appropriate oversight offices shall ensure the reconciliation of school-based master list and community-based Target Client List (TCL) to avoid double dosing and/or reporting.

**4. Actual conduct of MDA**

Support the conduct of MDA activities, which will be conducted either as school-based, community-based, or a combination of both, based on emerging policies with the Department of Education (DepEd) and/or the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Furthermore, the conduct of MDA activities will gradually revert back to the previous schedule, encompassing the entire months of **January and July** for **Round 1** and **Round 2**, respectively.

However, for the **July 2024 MDA**, this will be conducted in **July and August**, with a **catch-up activity** in **September**. This is per agreement with the IHCP Regional PMs and Coordinators during the said PIR, to facilitate a smooth transition while coordination mechanisms with DepEd and DILG are being re-established and logistical concerns on Albendazole tablets are being improved. Also, this is modified to keep up with DepEd's current school calendar, which will commence in July 2024.

**5. Current inventory and status of delivery of Albendazole tablets**

Ensure updated inventory and monitoring of Albendazole tablets to secure sufficient stocks and prevent expiration. Coordinate with the respective Supply Officers (SOs) per CHD on the logistical arrangement to ensure the timely delivery and prevent stockout of the Albendazole tablets. Maximize the limited supply of MDA drugs, and IHCP PMs with excess supplies are highly encouraged to share these with other IHCP PMs in need through internal arrangement. Furthermore, current stocks of Albendazole tablets shall be prioritized for the use of the target population (1-19 years old) for routine deworming activities following the **proposed 2025-2035 IHCP Goal**: *"To achieve good MDA coverage by 85% for 5 consecutive years."*

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/STHAlbendazolemonitoring>

**WASH Strategy**

Continuously collaborate with their respective Environmental Health Offices to ensure promotion of the use of safe and sufficient sources of water, and practice sanitation and hygiene strategies. Safe and sufficient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) plays a key role in preventing numerous NTDs such as STH. To reduce the burden of disease, MDA should be complemented by the WASH strategy. Health and hygiene education reduces transmission and reinfection by promoting healthy behaviors, and the provision of adequate sanitation is also important but not always





possible in resource-poor settings (WHO, 2024). Thus, collaboration with the respective Environmental Health Offices of each CHD is highly encouraged.

**7. The allowable interval for Albendazole intake**

The current schedule of deworming is twice a year at 6 months intervals - the first round in January and the second round in July, with a catch-up activity in the following month. MDA is a population-based intervention focusing on community preventive chemotherapy rather than individual treatment.

**8. Adverse events following deworming (AEFD)**

Follow the precautionary measures and proper referral and reporting mechanisms in the management of individuals with adverse events following deworming as stipulated in the following issuances:

- a. **Administrative Order (AO) No. 2010-0023:** *"Guidelines on Deworming Drug Administration and the Management of Adverse Events Following Deworming (AEFD)"*
- b. **DM No. 2016-0212:** *"Guidelines on the Implementation of the Harmonized Schedule and Combined Mass Drug Administration (HSCMDA) for the Prevention and Control of Lymphatic Filariasis, Schistosomiasis and Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis."*

**9. Coordinating mechanisms**

Create a Viber account and join the SCH/ STH/ Leprosy group chat for ease of coordination and communication and cascading of Program updates. Furthermore, for other pertinent information and queries kindly contact the NTD Technical Team via the Program email: [schnsth@doh.gov.ph](mailto:schnsth@doh.gov.ph)

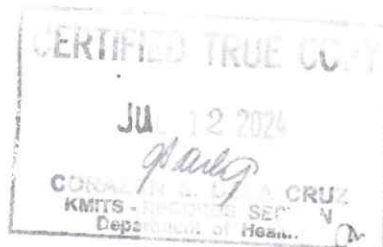
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/SCHSTHLeprosyViber>

Other concerns that have been raised during the PIR and are not yet included in this issuance are still being coordinated and discussed with the concerned offices/ agencies. The IHCP will issue an updated policy as the need arises and/ or before the conduct of the January 2025 MDA (Round 1).

For information and compliance.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:

**GLENN MATHEW G. BAGGAO, MD, MHA, MSN, FPSMS, FPCHA**  
Undersecretary of Health  
Public Health Services Cluster



## References:

1. Department of Health (2010). *Administrative Order No. 2010-0023: "Guidelines on Deworming Drug Administration and the Management of Adverse Events Following Deworming (AEFD)"*  
<https://tinyurl.com/ihcp-ao-2010-0023>
2. Department of Health (2016). *Department Memorandum No. 2016-0212: "Guidelines on the Implementation of the Harmonized Schedule and Combined Mass Drug Administration (HSCMDA) for the Prevention and Control of Lymphatic Filariasis, Schistosomiasis and Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis"*  
<https://tinyurl.com/ihcpscep-dm-2016-0212>
3. Department of Health (2020). *Department Memorandum No. 2020-0260: "Interim Guidelines on Integrated Helminth Control Program and Schistosomiasis Control and Elimination Program During the COVID-19 Pandemic"*  
<https://tinyurl.com/ihcp-dm-2020-0260>
4. Department of Health (2020). *Department Circular No. 2020-0302: "Delivery of Routine Deworming Services under the Integrated Helminth Control Program (HCP) during the COVID-19 Pandemic"*  
<https://tinyurl.com/ihcp-dc-2020-0302>
5. Office of the Philippine President (2023). *Proclamation No. 297, s. 2023: "Lifting of the State of Public Health Emergency Throughout the Philippine Due to COVID-19"*  
<https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2023/07/21/proclamation-no-297-s-2023/>
6. World Health Organization (2023). *Soil-transmitted helminth infections*  
<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/soil-transmitted-helminth-infections>
7. World Health Organization (2017). *Guideline: Preventive Chemotherapy to Control Soil-Transmitted Helminth in At-Risk Population Groups*  
<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/258983/9789241550116-eng.pdf?sequence=1>