



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
NEGROS ISLAND REGION

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. 1123, s. 2026

OCT 06 2026

**ADVISORY ON THE INTENSIFICATION OF SCHOOL-BASED DENGUE
PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEASURES**

To: Schools Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. This Office, through the Education Support Services Division, disseminates the attached Advisory from **Hon. Malcolm S. Garma**, Undersecretary for Governance and Operations regarding the **"Intensification of School-Based Dengue Prevention and Control Measures,"** which is self-explanatory.
2. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

RAMIR B. UYTICO EdD, CESO III
Regional Director

Reference: As Stated

Incl: As Stated

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

LEARNERS
HEALTH

MMG/ESSD-RM/Advisory on the Intensification of School-Based Dengue Prevention and Control Measures
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Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

ADVISORY

Consistent with the Department of Health (DOH) Administrative Order No. 2018-0021, as amended by Administrative Order No. 2018-0021-A, on the Enhanced 4S Strategy Against Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika, and DOH Department Memorandum No. 2025-0420, entitled 'Reiteration of Vector Control Measures and Interim Guidelines on the 1-3-7 Intensified Vector Control Strategy for Dengue, the Department of Education (DepEd) calls for heightened vigilance and intensified implementation of dengue prevention and control measures in all public schools, particularly during the rainy season when conditions become favorable for the breeding and proliferation of *Aedes* mosquitoes.

Dengue is a viral infection transmitted through the bite of infected *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. These mosquitoes commonly breed in clean, stagnant water found in water containers, flower vases, discarded cans and bottles, old tires, clogged gutters, drainage areas, and other receptacles that can collect rainwater.

In accordance with DOH health advisories on dengue prevention and control, all DepEd offices and schools are enjoined to strengthen the following measures:

1. Implement the 4S Strategy Against Dengue

a. Search and Destroy

Schools shall regularly inspect and eliminate mosquito-breeding sites within and around school premises.

Particular attention shall be given to classrooms, school grounds, gardens, drainage areas, gutters, comfort rooms, storage areas, and other locations where stagnant water may accumulate.

The **4Ts** or "**4 O'Clock Habit**" — **Taob, Taktak, Tuyo, at Takip** — shall be integrated into routine school cleanup and environmental sanitation activities:

- **Taob** – turn over containers and receptacles that may collect rainwater;
- **Taktak** – empty and remove stagnant water from containers and other water-holding materials;
- **Tuyo** – drain and dry areas where water may accumulate; and
- **Takip** – properly cover water drums, pails, tanks, and other water-storage containers.

Schools shall also regularly clean gutters and drainage systems and remove discarded tires, cans, bottles, plastic containers, and other materials that may serve as mosquito-breeding sites.

b. Secure Self-Protection

Learners and personnel shall be encouraged to protect themselves from mosquito bites by:

- Wearing long-sleeved clothing and long pants, whenever practicable;
- Using mosquito repellents appropriately and according to product instructions; and
- Using appropriate physical barriers such as screens and mosquito nets, where applicable.

c. Seek Early Consultation

Learners and personnel exhibiting signs and symptoms suggestive of dengue shall be encouraged to seek **early medical consultation**.

Common signs and symptoms include:

- Sudden onset of high fever, usually lasting two (2) to seven (7) days;
- Headache and pain behind the eyes;
- Muscle and joint pain;
- Weakness or unusual fatigue;
- Skin rashes;
- Abdominal pain;
- Persistent vomiting; and
- Signs of bleeding, such as nosebleeds or unusual bleeding.

Schools shall facilitate prompt referral of suspected cases to the appropriate health facility or Local Health Office for proper assessment and management.

Adequate hydration should be maintained as advised by a health professional. Aspirin and other medicines that may increase the risk of bleeding should not be administered unless prescribed or recommended by a qualified health professional.

d. Support Fogging/Spraying in Hotspot or Outbreak Areas

Fogging or spraying shall be conducted only when indicated by the appropriate health authorities, particularly in identified dengue hotspot or outbreak areas.

Schools shall coordinate with the Local Government Unit (LGU), Local Health Office, and other health authorities concerned for appropriate vector-control interventions.

Fogging or spraying shall not replace the regular elimination of mosquito-breeding sites and environmental sanitation activities.

2. Strengthen School-Based Surveillance and Reporting

School heads and school health personnel shall strengthen monitoring of suspected dengue cases among learners and personnel.

Schools shall:

- Promptly refer and report any suspected or confirmed cases to the appropriate health facility or Local Health Office, through coordination with the Schools Division Office, for case verification and appropriate vector-control measures, consistent with the DOH 1-3-7 Intensified Vector Control Strategy for Dengue under Department Memorandum No. 2025-0420;

- Immediately escalate any unusual increase, clustering, severe case, or dengue-related death for appropriate epidemiologic investigation and response; and
- Maintain appropriate records and undertake reporting in accordance with existing DepEd and DOH surveillance and reporting protocols and applicable data privacy requirements.

To facilitate standardized, timely, and efficient reporting, all offices shall utilize the automated Dengue and Leptospirosis Case Monitoring and Reporting Tool. Prescribed reporting procedures and timelines may be downloaded through this link (<https://bit.ly/schoolhealth2627diseasereport>).

3. Intensify Dengue Health Education and Risk Communication

Schools shall conduct age-appropriate and evidence-based health education activities to increase awareness on dengue prevention and control.

Health promotion activities shall emphasize:

- Modes of transmission of dengue;
- Signs and symptoms requiring medical consultation;
- The 4S Strategy Against Dengue;
- The 4Ts or “4 O’Clock Habit”;
- Personal protection against mosquito bites;
- Proper environmental sanitation; and
- The importance of early consultation and appropriate medical management.

Learner-led activities, classroom discussions, school announcements, information campaigns, parent orientations, and other appropriate health promotion activities may be undertaken.

A compilation of materials for awareness and prevention of Dengue in schools may be accessed through this link (<https://bit.ly/schoolhealth2627resources>).

4. Intensify School Environmental Sanitation

Dengue prevention activities shall be incorporated into regular school cleanliness and environmental sanitation activities.

Schools are encouraged to utilize existing mechanisms such as Brigada Eskwela, Gulayan sa Paaralan, school cleanup drives, and school-community activities to sustain the elimination of mosquito-breeding sites.

School heads shall ensure regular inspection of the school premises and immediate correction of conditions that may contribute to mosquito breeding.

5. Strengthen School-Community and Inter-Agency Coordination

Regional Offices (ROs), Schools Division Offices (SDOs), and schools shall strengthen coordination with the DOH Centers for Health Development (CHDs), Provincial/City/Municipal Health Offices, LGUs, and other relevant partners.

Such coordination shall be undertaken particularly when there is:

- An unusual increase or clustering of dengue cases;

- A suspected outbreak or hotspot;
- A need for epidemiological investigation;
- Identification of significant mosquito-breeding sites; or
- A need for targeted vector-control measures.

6. Continuous Implementation and Monitoring

Dengue prevention and control measures shall be implemented continuously and intensified during periods of increased dengue risk, particularly during the rainy season.

Regional Offices and Schools Division Offices shall ensure that this Advisory is cascaded to all schools and that implementation is regularly monitored.

School heads, school health personnel, teaching and non-teaching personnel, learners, parents, and community partners are enjoined to work together in maintaining a clean, safe, and dengue-free school environment.

For information, guidance, and appropriate action.

MALCOLM S. GARMA

Undersecretary for Governance and Operations

