

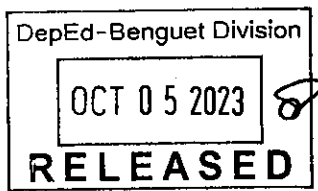


Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
 Schools Division of Benguet

04 October, 2023

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 357, 52023



To: Chief Education Supervisor, CID and SGOD
 Public Schools District Supervisors, Coordinating Principals
 Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
 All Others Concerned

PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

1. This is in relation to increasing number of reported cases of communicable diseases in schools. **Communicable diseases** are illnesses caused by viruses or bacteria that people spread to one another through contact with contaminated surfaces, bodily fluids, blood products, insect bites, or through the air. Most commonly reported communicable diseases cases in school from September 25, 2023 to October 3, 2023 are **flu** and **sore eyes**.

2. **Flu** is a common respiratory illness you get from the influenza virus. Symptoms often include **fever, head and body aches, coughing and a stuffy or runny nose**. **Sore eyes or Conjunctivitis** is defined by the Department of Health (DOH) as a redness and inflammation of the membranes (conjunctiva) covering the whites of the eyes and the inner parts of the eyelids. It has many causes, but in most cases, it results from viral infection, but can also be from bacteria or allergen.

3. All personnel and learners shall be regularly reminded to strictly monitor themselves for symptoms before reporting to work or school. Those with flu-like symptoms or sore eyes will not be allowed to report onsite but will be advised to stay at home, switch to distance learning (for learners) or avail of their sick leave credits (for personnel), as may be applicable. Reports of cases shall be submitted to the district nurses. (DepEd Order 039 s. 2022)

4. Schools shall strengthen community monitoring measures and referral systems with LGUs and health centers and encourage participation and cooperation of parents and communities for safe transportation and home care isolation of learners when sick. (DepEd Order 039 s. 2022)

5. Observance of the following MINIMUM PUBLIC HEALTH STANDARDS (MPHS) AND OTHER RELATED PROTOCOLS (DepEd Order 039 s. 2022):



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A. Handwashing and Disinfection

Schools shall ensure availability of handwashing facilities with soap and conduct of group handwashing activities while observing MPHS, in line with DepEd Order No. 10 s. 2016 titled Policy and Guidelines for the Comprehensive Water Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools (WinS) Program and DepEd Memorandum No. 194 s. 2018 titled Implementing Guidelines to DepEd Order No. 10 s. 2016, in which a group handwashing facility should have at least ten (10) water outlets in elementary level and four (4) water outlets in the secondary level.

Disinfection of commonly touched surfaces.

B. Wearing of face masks

Wearing of face masks shall be mandatory to all personnel, learners, visitors inside the classroom, laboratories and other school rooms, but shall be voluntary in open spaces, or non-crowded outdoor areas with good ventilation.

C. Ventilation

Adequate ventilation may be achieved through natural ventilation such as opening of windows and doors, while ensuring that nearby spaces of open windows are free from toxic gases and pollutants

Proper ventilation in communal restrooms must not be overlooked. If installed, exhaust fans in these areas must be operational and at full capacity whenever the space is occupied. The acts of flushing contribute to dispersion of contaminants inside the restrooms.

D. Physical Distancing

All Personnel, learners and visitors shall observe physical distancing whenever possible.

Canteens can operate at full operational capacity. Eating should be done with distancing whenever possible.

E. School Health Programs and Services, including Vaccination

Schools shall ensure continuous implementation of school-based routine vaccination, encourage vaccination against communicable diseases including other medical, dental and nursing services on healthy schools like smoke-free, vape-free environments, anti-bullying practices, nutrition, oral health, reproductive health, substance use prevention, mental health and water, sanitation and hygiene, in line with existing initiatives such as Oplan Kalusugan sa DepEd and the Healthy Learning Institutions (HLI) Framework.

6. Immediate dissemination to all concerned is desired.


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