

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## DepEd addresses health needs of school kids

The Department of Education (DepEd) conducts several interventions that will address the health and nutrition requirements of schoolchildren in typhoon-hit areas.

“Just as we are prioritizing the repair of damaged school buildings, we are also giving priority to the health status of our schoolchildren,” DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus said.

Assistant Secretary Thelma Santos noted, “As instructed by the secretary, we have asked our medical officers to immediately do physical check-ups of public school kids as soon as they return to schools. They are to monitor them especially for signs of diseases common during flooding and rains. Health Advocacy on personal hygiene and environmental sanitation is intensively conducted by the school health personnel.

A critical incident stress debriefing is also held for those who lost loved ones or suffered tremendous loss due to the recent calamities.

“Field offices are also procuring the needed medicines for affected students and teachers,” she added. Most common ailments found among the pupils are skin diseases, respiratory infections and minor injuries, among others.

School premises will also be inspected to identify and eliminate breeding grounds of mosquitoes to protect schoolchildren from Dengue.

Lapus also instructed the Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) to resume the distribution of rice under the Food for School Program in the National Capital Region (NCR) and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Meanwhile, the DepEd chief reiterated his call for the private sector to extend assistance to worst-hit public schools and augment the department’s efforts to provide the needs of schoolchildren and teachers.

He said, “This is the perfect time for us to recognize the value of Brigada Eskwela. This is why we have been calling on our DepEd divisions to help neighboring divisions that were severely affected by the typhoons.”

“What we have seen in the past few days is the bayanihan spirit in action, motivating volunteers to be active in helping our public schoolchildren and teachers survive this catastrophe,” Lapus added. “This is our year-round Brigada Eskwela Plus that engages the community to get more involved in education.”

**END**