



JUN 22 2009

DepED O R D E R
No. 65, s. 2009

IMPLEMENTATION OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM (EHCP)
FOR THE SCHOOL CHILDREN

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division/City Superintendents

1. Education and health are interrelated. Academic performance of the pupils and instructional outcomes are determined by the quality of health of the school children. Unhealthy children cannot develop their full potential which may result to high drop-out rates and low academic performance. The health status of public school pupils in public schools are alarmingly poorly. Dental caries, infectious diseases (respiratory tract infections and diarrhea) and worm infestations are the most common hygiene deficiency related infectious diseases in public schools which are due to lack of water and functional sanitary facilities. If unattended, these will lead to malnutrition, poor physical growth and other diseases like anemia, toothache, among others.
2. To address these problems, the Essential Health Care Program (EHCP) for school children shall be institutionalized in all schools. Through this project, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste with fluoride and deworming medicines will be provided for the conduct of daily handwashing, daily toothbrushing and bi-annual deworming of all children. These are the most cost effective, evidence-based preventive interventions to improve the health of school children in public schools and thereby, improving their academic performance.
3. Recently, the Department of Education (DepED), League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) and Fit for School Inc., forged a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a nationwide implementation of EHCP.
4. Regional directors, schools division superintendents shall establish linkages with LGUs and jointly participate in the planning while the regional/division health and nutrition personnel and Adopt-A-School Program (ASP) coordinators will be responsible for the orientation of school principals and teachers and monitoring and evaluation of the project. Outstanding performances of involved school administrators, teaching and non-teaching personnel will be included in the performance ranking and will be rewarded every year.
5. School principals and teachers shall be oriented by the health and nutrition personnel for proper supervision/implementation of the daily handwashing with soap and toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste. Parent Teachers Associations (PTAs) are encouraged to establish handwashing/toothbrushing facilities, toothbrush holders and other improvements of the schools.
6. Enclosed is the implementing guidelines of the project.
7. Widest dissemination and compliance with this Order is desired.


JESLI A. LAPUS
Secretary

Encl.:

As stated

Reference:

None

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

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

HEALTH EDUCATION
PROGRAM, SCHOOLS
PUPILS

Sheila, DO Implementation of EHCP
June 8, 2009

Enclosure to DepED Order No. 65, s. 2009

**ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM (EHCP) FOR
SCHOOL CHILDREN**

IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES

- The focus of the EHCP is the institutionalization of evidence-based cost-effective interventions, such as daily handwashing with soap, toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste and bi-annual deworming as school activity.
- The program shall be implemented in all schools nationwide targeting pre-schoolers and Grade I-VI.
- The project shall be financially covered by the LGU depending on the number of children involved in the project and should have a strong support from Regional and Division Officials in establishing a linkage to LGU sans schools administrators, teaching and non-teaching personnel.

Regional Directors Schools Division Superintendents:

- Issue a Regional/Division Memorandum for all regions/division schools to implement the (EHCP)
- Oversee the overall implementation of the project
- Inclusion of the school health programs into the performance ranking system for teachers and principals
- Showcase Basic Education System Reform Agenda (BESRA) and use the program to strengthen linkage with the local government

School Principal

- Call for PTCA assembly for proper information of parents and teachers on the EHCP
- Ensure that handwashing and toothbrushing are done daily in schools
- Link with LGUs and other stakeholders to provide the supportive environment
- Ensure availability of supplies (soap and toothpaste)
- Coordinate with the Chief of Health and Nutrition Section

School Health Personnel

- Conduct a basic orientation on the EHCP to school administrators, teachers, PTCA officials/members and Barangay Health Workers (BHW) during the PTCA assembly
- Monitor and give feedback to teachers and to the principal on the status of implementation and make suggestions for improvement

- Provide teachers and parents with needed information and address their questions, concerns and misconceptions on deworming
- Provide technical support to teachers and oversee/do deworming activities in their areas of responsibility
- Seek assistance of the barangay health workers during the mass deworming activity.