



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

07 OCT 2019

DepEd MEMORANDUM

No. **132**, s. 2019

**OBSERVANCE OF THE NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH WEEK
AND THE WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY**

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau and Service Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. The Department of Education (DepEd) shall observe the **2019 National Mental Health Week**, pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 452, s. 1994, titled **Declaring the Second Week of October of Every Year as National Mental Health Week**, in accordance with the celebration of the **World Mental Health Day** on October 10.

2. The focus of the World Mental Health Day 2019 is **suicide prevention**. Relevant resources to the celebration are available at the website of the World Health Organization: <http://bit.ly/whowmhd2019>.

3. In this connection, DepEd shall undertake the following activities:

- a. The central, regional, and schools division offices, and all schools, shall conduct activities for employees, learners, parents and/or other concerned stakeholders to promote mental health and raise awareness on related issues, especially the focus of the World Mental Health Day 2019.
- b. The Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health Division (BLSS-SHD), in coordination with concerned bureaus and divisions at the central office, shall lead the conduct of the 2019 School Mental Health Forum, an annual activity of the Department in celebration of the National Mental Health Week and the World Mental Health Day.

4. It is emphasized that the Engaged Time-on-Task policy of DepEd should be observed as stipulated in DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005.

5. Funding for the conduct of the school activities may be sourced from the budget for maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE), subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations. The same accounting procedures and standards shall be applied to funds from other sources.

6. The report and photos on the highlights of the observance of the National Mental Health Week shall be incorporated in the consolidated Accomplishment Report for *OK sa DepEd* for submission by the regional offices to BLSS-SHD, as guided by DepEd Order No. 28, s. 2018, titled the Policy and Guidelines on *Oplan Kalusugan* sa Department of Education.

7. A brief narrative report on the conduct of the activities, and properly captioned photos are also requested to be sent in advance to schoolmentalhealth@deped.gov.ph as soon as possible.

8. For more information, please contact **Mr. Gian Erik Adao**, Education Program Specialist II, Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health Division (BLSS-SHD), 3rd Floor, Mabini Building, Department of Education Central Office, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City at email address gian.adao@deped.gov.ph (using the Subject Title: National Mental Health Week 2019) or at telephone no. (02) 632-9935.

9. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES
Secretary

Encl.:

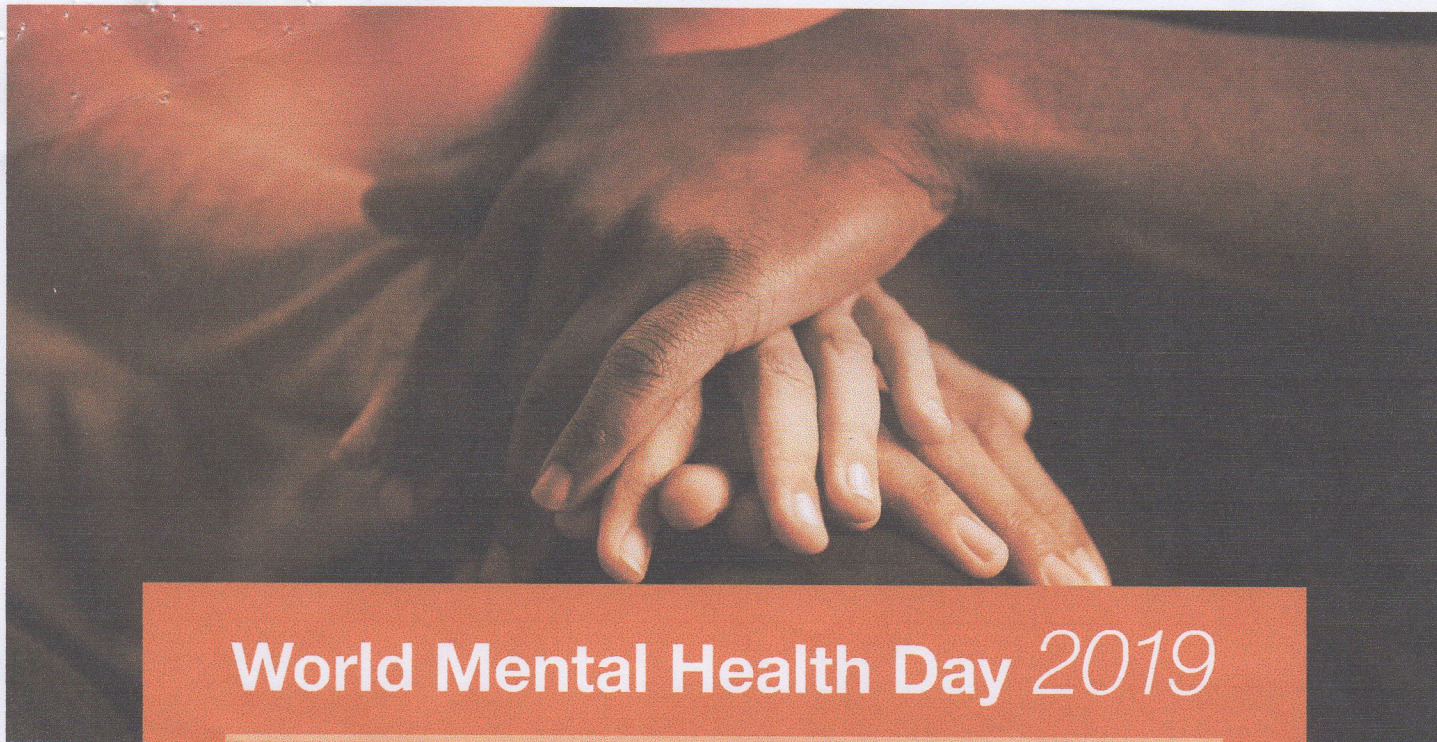
As stated

References:

DepEd Order: (Nos. 28, s. 2018 and 9, s. 2005)

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

BUREAUS AND OFFICES
CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS
EMPLOYEES
HEALTH EDUCATION
OFFICIALS
SCHOOLS



World Mental Health Day 2019

Working together to prevent suicide

A day for “40 seconds of action”

World Mental Health Day, on 10 October, is a day for us to unite in our efforts to improve the mental health of people around the world. The theme selected for this year's Day is suicide prevention. We will begin our efforts to raise awareness of the scale of suicide around the world and the role that each of us can play to help prevent it on 10 September, World Suicide Prevention Day ([#WorldSuicidePreventionDay](#)), which has been observed for more than 15 years. Our efforts will continue throughout the following month, until 10 October.

Every 40 seconds someone loses their life to suicide.

#40seconds

On this year's World Mental Health Day, in addition to events and activities taking place on or around 10 September, we are encouraging you to prepare to take “40 seconds of action” on 10 October to help us:

- **improve awareness of the significance of suicide as a global public health problem;**
- **improve knowledge of what can be done to prevent suicide;**
- **reduce the stigma associated with suicide; and**
- **let people who are struggling know that they are not alone.**

Put simply, this is an opportunity to show you care.

Everyone can take part in whichever way makes most sense. Your activity may be private, for example, initiating a conversation with someone you are worried about or sharing a message of hope with someone who is struggling; or it may be public, for example posting a video message for local or national authorities about action you would like them to take on this issue.



Here are some more ideas:

- If you are struggling, take 40 seconds to kickstart a conversation with someone you trust about how you are feeling.
- If you know someone who has lost a loved one to suicide, take 40 seconds to start a conversation and ask them how they are doing.
- If you work in media, highlight the 40-second statistic in interviews, articles and blogposts.
- If you work in the arts or on digital platforms, interrupt your production or broadcast to transmit a 40-second message about mental health or preventing suicide.
- If you are an employer or manager, take 40 seconds to formulate a positive message of support to your employees about resources available to them in the workplace or local community in times of mental distress.
- If you want your leaders to hear your request for action, record a 40-second audio clip or video telling them the action you want them to take on suicide prevention and mental health.
- If you have a platform for communicating with a large audience (social media, television, radio), provide 40-second slots for sharing mental health stories and messages.
- If you hold political office, communicate publicly about action you are taking to promote mental health and prevent suicide, highlighting the 40-second statistic.

Key facts and figures



Suicides are preventable.



One person dies by suicide every 40 seconds.



A prior suicide attempt is an important risk factor for suicide.



Suicide is the second leading cause of death among 15-29 year-olds.



Suicide affects people of all age groups in all countries.



Share your messages, photos, illustrations and videos that are not of a private nature on Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag **#40seconds**. Include **#WorldMentalHealthDay** in your posts too.

Remember to respect the privacy of friends, colleagues or acquaintances who may be struggling and never share any information about their mental health on a public channel without their consent.



World Health Organization



I A S P