



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region II - Cagayan Valley
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF NUEVA VIZCAYA

UNNUMBERED DIVISION MEMORANDUM

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief-School Governance Operations Division
Chief-Curriculum Implementation Division
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors/District In-Charge
Heads, Secondary and Elementary Schools
School Health and Nutrition Personnel
Secondary School Nurses
All Others Concerned

From: **ORLANDO E. MANUEL PhD, CESO V**
Schools Division Superintendent

Date: **MARCH 17, 2025**

Subject: **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PREVENTION, DETECTION,
ISOLATION, TREATMENT, AND REINTEGRATION (PDITR)
STRATEGY FOR HAND, FOOT, AND MOUTH DISEASE
(HFMD)**



1. In accordance with **Executive Order No. 20, Series of 2023**, and in the interest of safeguarding the health of learners and school personnel, the following guidelines and directives are hereby issued to all school heads for the management and control of HFMD cases:

- A. **Mandatory Hand Hygiene Protocols:** Ensure that handwashing facilities with clean water and soap are available in all schools. Mandate frequent handwashing among learners and staff, especially after using the restroom, before and after meals, and after playtime. Where water supply is limited, alcohol-based sanitizers should be provided.
- B. **Infection Control Measures:** Regularly disinfect classrooms, toilets, and high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, desks, and playground equipment) to prevent the spread of HFMD. Day care centers and schools should implement daily cleaning and sanitation protocols, with special attention to areas used by young children.
- C. **Health Monitoring and Early Detection:** Teachers and school nurses should actively monitor learners for HFMD symptoms, such as rashes on palms/soles and mouth ulcers. Parents/guardians should be advised to immediately report if their child is showing symptoms. Early reporting and isolation are critical to prevent further transmission.



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- D. **Social Distancing Measures:** Implement proper physical distancing measures in classrooms, especially for preschoolers and grade school learners. Avoid close physical contact such as hugging, kissing, or sharing personal items (e.g., utensils, drinking glasses) among students.
- E. **Isolation of Symptomatic Individuals:** Learners or staff who exhibit symptoms of HFMD must be isolated immediately. Symptomatic individuals must remain in isolation for 7-10 days or until all symptoms have subsided, as certified by a health professional. Ensure proper referral to the nearest health facility for further management if necessary.
- F. **Education and Information Campaign:** Conduct health education sessions for students, staff, and parents about HFMD symptoms, preventive measures, and the importance of reporting any signs of illness. Use school communication channels, such as advisories, social media pages, and school assemblies, to reinforce the need for hygiene and early detection.
- G. **Coordination with Local Health Authorities:** All school heads are directed to closely coordinate with the Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams (BHERTs) and the Municipal Health Office (MHO) for any HFMD-related incidents. Immediate reporting of confirmed or suspected cases to health authorities is essential for proper surveillance and contact tracing.
- H. **Reintegration of Recovered Learners and Personnel:** Learners and staff who have recovered from HFMD and have been cleared by a healthcare professional may return to school. School authorities are encouraged to support the reintegration of recovered individuals to minimize stigma and ensure a smooth transition back to regular activities.
- I. **Regular Updates and Reporting:** School heads are required to submit weekly reports on the status of HFMD cases to the Schools Division Office (SDO). All actions taken to prevent, detect, and manage HFMD cases should be documented for monitoring purposes.
2. For further queries, kindly contact **Ryan Christopher A. Buccat, MD, Medical Officer III at 09275463220**
3. For information, dissemination, guidance and strict compliance.



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