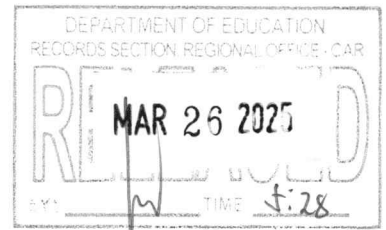




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION



26 March 2025

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. 221.2025

ADVISORY ON RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN SCHOOLS

To: Assistant Regional Director
Schools Division Superintendent
School Health Personnel
All Others Concerned

1. This office disseminates OM-OUOPS-2025-08-01873 Memorandum titled "Advisory on Rabies Prevention and Control in Schools" to strengthen efforts in protecting learners, school personnel, and the community from the danger of rabies.
2. Attached is OM-OUOPS-2025-08-01873 from Office of the Undersecretary for Operations for details.
3. For wide dissemination and strict compliance.


ESTELA P. LEON-CARIÑO EdD, CESO III
Director IV/Regional Director

*ESSD/GDC/rsd/ Advisory on Rabies Prevention and Control in Schools
March 26, 2025*



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Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS

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MALCOLM S. GARMA

Assistant Secretary, Officer-In-Charge,
Office of the Undersecretary for Operations

MEMORANDUM
OM-OUOPS-2025-66-01873

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**FOR : REGIONAL DIRECTORS
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
PRINCIPALS/SCHOOL HEADS/TEACHERS-IN-CHARGE
CONCERNED
ALL OTHER CONCERNED**

FROM : MALCOLM S. GARMA
Assistant Secretary, Officer-in-Charge,
Office of the Undersecretary for Operations

SUBJECT : ADVISORY ON RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN SCHOOLS

DATE : March 10, 2025

To strengthen efforts in protecting learners, school personnel, and the community from the dangers of rabies, the Department of Education (DepEd), through the Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health Division (BLSS-SHD), issues this advisory outlining necessary measures for rabies prevention and control in schools.

Rabies is a deadly viral infection primarily transmitted through bites or scratches from infected animals, most notably dogs. The Philippines remain one of the high-risk countries for rabies, with cases reported every year. In our ongoing commitment to public health and safety, schools are encouraged to play a proactive role by implementing preventive measures and conducting awareness campaigns.

Signs and Symptoms:

1. Fever and headache
2. Pain or numbness of bite site
3. Delirium and paralysis
4. Muscle spasms
5. Hydrophobia and aerophobia

Recommended Preventive Measures:

1. Education and Awareness Campaigns:

- a) Conduct comprehensive awareness campaigns focused on rabies prevention, transmission, methods of transmission and symptoms identification.



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- b) Integrate rabies awareness topics into health education programs.
- c) Distribute materials, such as posters and leaflets, to educate learners and school personnel.
- d) Educate learners on recognizing rabies symptoms in animals, such as aggressive behavior, excessive drooling, fear of water and bright lights, and difficulty walking.
- e) Encourage learners and school personnel to avoid contact with unfamiliar animals, particularly those showing these symptoms.

2. Strict Pet Management within School Premises:

- a) Prohibit stray animals from entering school grounds. If complete prevention is not feasible, ensure that these animals receive vaccinations.
- b) Advise learners and personnel to avoid contact with unfamiliar or unvaccinated animals.
- c) Coordinate with local government units (LGUs) for animal control measures.

3. Vaccination and Responsible Pet Ownership:

- a) Encourage pet owners, including school staff and learners, to ensure their pets receive annual rabies vaccinations.
- b) Promote responsible pet ownership through school and community partnerships.
- c) Encourage proper pet care, including regular hygiene, proper feeding, and safe sleeping areas.
- d) Emphasize that all pet dogs and cats should be vaccinated annually to prevent the spread of rabies.

Proper First Aid Measures for Animal Bites:

- a) If bitten or scratched by an animal, immediately wash the wound with soap and running water for at least 15 minutes.
- b) Seek immediate medical attention at the nearest Animal Bite & Treatment Center for proper wound management and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).
- c) Learners should be encouraged to report any bites or scratches to teachers, parents or school authorities immediately, without fear of reprimand.
- d) For urgent concerns, contact:
 - i. 911 – National Hotline
 - ii. 1555 – DOH Hotline

Strengthening Collaboration with Health and Veterinary Authorities:

- a) Partner with the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Agriculture (DA), and LGUs for rabies vaccination drives.
- b) Participate in World Rabies Day and other related advocacy programs.
- c) Establish referral mechanisms for students and staff requiring rabies post-exposure management.



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For further queries regarding this concern, please contact Dr. Maria Corazon C. Dumlao and/or Dr. Mariblanca C.P. Piatos, from the BLSS-SHD at telephone no. (02) 8632-9935 or email at blss.shd@deped.gov.ph.

For wide dissemination and strict compliance.



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