



Department of Education

SOCCSKSARGEN REGION SCHOOLS DIVISION OF SARANGANI

29 Apr 2025

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 061 , s. 2025

DISSEMINATION OF REGIONAL MEMORANDUM ESSD-2025-081 (RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN SCHOOLS)

To: Public Schools District Supervisors
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads

- 1. For the information, guidance, and appropriate action of all concerned, enclosed is a copy of the Regional Memorandum ESSD-2025-081 dated 10 April 2025, titled **Rabies Prevention and Control in Schools**.
- 2. For inquiries, contact Dr. Lyn Frances Dominique P. Gumban at 0918-227-6157.
- 3. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

ATTY. NELYN B. FRINAL, CESO VI

Assistant Schools Division Superintendent Officer-in-Charge

Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

Encl.: As stated Reference: As stated

To be indicated in the <u>Perpetual Index</u> under the following subjects:

COMMUNICATIONS CORRESPONDENCE

LFDPG/SGOD-SHS/DM – dissemination of regional memorandum essd-2025-081 (rabies prevention and control in schools) 0397/April 29, 2025





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Department of Education

SOCCSKSARGEN REGION

10 Apr 2025

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM ESSD-2025-081

RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN SCHOOLS

To: Schools Division Superintendents

Principals/School Heads/Teachers-In Charge

All Others Concerned

- This is with reference to DepEd Memorandum OM-OUOPS-2025-08-01873, or Advisory on Rabies Prevention and Control in Schools with the aim to strengthen efforts in protecting learners, school personnel, and the community from dangers of rabies.
- 2. Rabies is a deadly virus primarily transmitted through bites or scratch from infected animals most notably from dogs. Rabies infection is 100 percent preventable with timely and proper management and vaccination.
- 3. Signs and Symptoms of Rabies Infection:
 - a. Fever and headache
 - b. Pain or numbness of bite site
 - c. Delirium and paralysis
 - d. Muscle spasms
 - e. Hydrophobia and aerophobia
- 4. Schools are encouraged to play a proactive role by implementing preventive measures and conducting awareness campaigns. The following measures are recommended for the prevention of transmission of rabies virus:
 - 4.1 Education and Awareness Campaigns:
 - Conduct comprehensive awareness campaigns focused on rabies prevention, transmission, methods of transmission and symptoms identification.
 - b. Integrate rabies awareness topics into health education programs.
 - 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.
 - Encourage learners and school personnel to avoid contact with unfamiliar animals, particularly those showing symptoms
 - 4.2 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.
 - Advise learners and personnel to avoid contact with unfamiliar or unvaccinated animals.







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SOCCSKSARGEN REGION

Coordinate with local government units (LGUs) for animal control

4.3 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.
- Encourage proper pet care, including regular hygiene, proper feeding, and safe sleeping areas.
- Emphasize that all pet dogs and cats should be vaccinated annually to prevent the spread of rabies.

Proper First Aid Measures For Animal Bites: 4.4

- 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 and Treatment Center for proper wound management and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).
- 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:
 - 1. 911 National Hotline
 - 2. 1555 DOH Hotline

4.5 Strengthening Collaboration With Health And Veterinary **Authorities:**

- a. Partner with Department of Health (DOH), Department of Agriculture (DA), and Local Governments Units/Rural Health Units/City Health Offices/Office of Municipal Agriculture 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 with the nearest Animal Bite Treatment Center/Health Facility.
- d. Cooperate/Coordinate with local health authority in case of exposure or close contact with person infected with rabies for proper management/vaccination.
- For information and strict compliance of all concerned. 5.

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CARLITO D. ROCAFORT Director IV







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Encls: As stated
References: DM OM-OUOPS-2025-08-01873
Allotment: None
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

HEALTH CAMPAIGN

EGMAJ/ESSD-SHS/RM- RABLES PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN SCHOOLS 0 088/APPIL 02, 2073







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