Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VI – WESTERN VISAYAS
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF AKLAN

October 15, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 620, s. 2026

PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION OF LEPTOSPIROSIS IN SCHOOL FOLLOWING FLOODING AND HEAVY RAINS

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors, Principals In-Charge of the District
Head Teacher-In-Charge of the District
Senior/Education Program Specialists
Heads of Public Elementary, Secondary, and Integrated Schools
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is Regional Memorandum No. 1037, s. 2026 dated October 12, 2026 regarding **Prevention and Early Detection of Leptospirosis in School Following Flooding and Heavy Rains,** which is self-explanatory.

2. Immediate dissemination of and compliance of this Memorandum are desired.

FELICIANO C. BUENAFE JR., CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

Enclosure: None
Reference: Regional Memorandum No. 1037, s.2026
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
Under the following subjects:

HEALTH EDUCATION
PROCEDURES

RMF/pmc

Poblacion, Numancia, Aklan
Tel/Fax No. (265 3740 I 265 3741 I 265 3743)
Website: http://www.depedaklan.org
Email Address: aklan.1958@deped.gov.ph

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VI – WESTERN VISAYAS

OCT 12 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 1037 s. 2026

PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION OF LEPTOSPIROSIS IN SCHOOL FOLLOWING FLOODING AND HEAVY RAINS

To: School Division Superintendents
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is an Advisory from **Hon. Malcolm S. Garma**, **Undersecretary for Governance and Operations**, regarding the **Prevention and Early Detection of Leptospirosis in School Following Flooding and Heavy Rains**, which is self-explanatory.

2. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

CRISTITO A. ECO, CESO III
Regional Director

Enclosure: As Stated
Reference: DepEd Advisory
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

HEALTH EDUCATION
PROCEDURES

REU/ESSD-RM - PREVENTION AND EARLY DETECTION OF LEPTOSPIROSIS IN SCHOOL FOLLOWING FLOODING AND HEAVY RAIN 175/October 7, 2026

Address: Duran Street, Iloilo City, 5000
Telephone Nos: (033)509-7653; (033)336-2816
Email Address: region6@deped.gov.ph
Website: region6.deped.gov.ph

BAGONG PILIPINAS
Certificate No. PHP QMS 24 93 0184

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OCT 05 2026
By: TIME:

ADVISORY

Consistent with the Department of Health's (DOH) issuance on the Prevention, Control Management and Surveillance of Leptospirosis issued through DOH Department Memorandum 2023-0309, the Department of Education (DepEd) reminds all learners, teaching and non-teaching personnel, parents and guardians, and school communities to take precautionary measures against **leptospirosis**, particularly in areas experiencing heavy rains and flooding.

As reported by the Philippine News Agency (PNA) on August 24, 2026, citing data from the DOH, a total of **4,285 leptospirosis cases were recorded** as of 22 August 2026, with 845 additional cases reported over the preceding two-week period amid persistent rains associated with the enhanced southwest monsoon (Habagat) and tropical cyclones.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection caused by *Leptospira* bacteria. Infected animals, particularly rats and other rodents, may contaminate water, soil, and vegetation through their urine and other waste products. People may become infected through direct or indirect contact with water, soil, or other materials contaminated with the urine or body fluids of infected animals. **Wading or swimming in contaminated floodwater may pose a risk even in the absence of visible wounds**, although cuts, abrasions, and contact with the eyes, nose, mouth, or other mucous membranes may increase the risk of infection.

What Should School Communities Do?

All school communities are advised to observe the following preventive measures:

1. **Avoid contact with floodwater.**
   - Do not swim, wade, play, or unnecessarily walk through floodwater.
   - Avoid contact with muddy or potentially contaminated soil.
   - Keep learners away from flooded areas within and around school premises.

2. **Protect yourself when exposure cannot be avoided.**
   - Wear appropriate protective equipment, such as boots and gloves, when exposure to contaminated water or soil is necessary.
   - Cover cuts, wounds, and other breaks in the skin with waterproof dressings.
   - Wash exposed skin thoroughly with clean water and soap after accidental contact with floodwater.

3. **Maintain clean and safe school surroundings.**
   - Properly dispose of garbage and food waste.
   - Keep classrooms, canteens, storage areas, and other school facilities clean.
   - Remove materials and waste that may provide food or shelter for rodents.
   - Ensure proper drainage and removal of stagnant water whenever feasible.
   - Coordinate with the Local Government Unit (LGU) for appropriate rodent-control and environmental sanitation measures.

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Be Alert for Signs and Symptoms

Individuals who have been exposed to floodwater or potentially contaminated soil should monitor for symptoms of leptospirosis, which may include:

- Fever;
- Muscle pain;
- Headache;
- Calf muscle pain; and
- Reddish eyes.

Severe cases may involve the liver, kidneys, or brain and may present with yellowish discoloration of the skin or eyes, dark-colored urine, light-colored stools, decreased urine output, or severe headache.

The incubation period and onset of symptoms may commonly be noted around **7–10 days after exposure**, although symptoms and the course of illness may vary.

Seek Early Medical Consultation

Learners and personnel who have waded, swum, or otherwise had significant exposure to floodwater or other potentially contaminated water or soil, with or without visible wounds, are advised to promptly consult the nearest health facility, Rural Health Unit, or City/Municipal Health Office for appropriate risk assessment and determination of whether post-exposure prophylaxis is indicated, consistent with prevailing DOH guidelines.

Antibiotics, including those used for post-exposure prophylaxis, shall not be self-administered and should be taken only upon the advice or prescription of an appropriately qualified health professional, taking into consideration the person's age, pregnancy status, medical history, contraindications, and nature of exposure.

For School Heads and School Health Personnel

School heads and school health personnel shall:

- Strengthen health education and information dissemination on leptospirosis;
- Monitor learners and personnel who may have been exposed to floodwater;
- Facilitate prompt referral of symptomatic individuals to appropriate health facilities;
- Ensure the timely recording and reporting of suspected or confirmed leptospirosis cases among learners and personnel through the prescribed DepEd monitoring and reporting mechanism;
- Coordinate with the LGU, Rural Health Unit, City/Municipal Health Office, and other local health authorities;
- Ensure that flooded school areas are appropriately cleaned and assessed for safety before use; and
- Strengthen environmental sanitation and rodent-control measures within school premises.

Schools are reminded that symptomatic individuals should be referred to qualified health professionals for proper assessment and management.

School-Based Monitoring and Reporting

To facilitate standardized, timely, and efficient monitoring, DepEd shall make available an automated Dengue and Leptospirosis Case Monitoring and Reporting Tool for use by schools, Schools Division Offices (SDOs), Regional Offices (ROs), and the Central Office, accessible through this link (https://bit.ly/schoolhealth2627diseasereport).

Schools shall encode reported leptospirosis cases in the prescribed reporting tool within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of information on a case. Any death, unusual increase, or clustering of suspected or confirmed cases shall be immediately reported to the SDO and coordinated with the appropriate local health authorities, without waiting for the regular reporting cycle.

The DepEd monitoring and reporting mechanism shall be without prejudice to, and shall not replace, the mandatory notification and disease surveillance requirements of the Department of Health under Republic Act No. 11332, its implementing rules and regulations, and prevailing DOH issuances, including the Philippine Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (PIDSR) system. Schools and DepEd offices shall coordinate with the appropriate local health office and/or epidemiology and surveillance unit for cases requiring notification to the DOH.

Health Education and Promotion

A compilation of materials for awareness and prevention of Leptospirosis cases in schools may be accessed through this link (https://bit.ly/schoolhealth2627resources).

DepEd calls on all members of the school community to remain vigilant and practice appropriate preventive measures, particularly during and after flooding, to reduce the risk of leptospirosis and other water- and flood-related diseases.

For questions or clarifications, please contact the **Bureau of Learner Support Services–School Health Division (BLSS-SHD)** through email at blss.shd@deped.gov.ph.

For information, dissemination, and appropriate action.

MALCOLM S. GARMA
Undersecretary for Governance and Operations