



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001, Sol Plaatje House, 222 Struben Street, Pretoria, 0002, South Africa
Tel.: (012) 357 3000, Fax: (012) 323 0601, www.education.gov.za

Ref no: S-0311/18-09/03/2018
Enquiries: Dr F Kumalo
Tel: 012 357 3431
E-mail: Kumalo.F@dbe.gov.za

Mr TS Kojana
Head: Education
Eastern Cape Province
Private Bag X0032
BISHO
5605

By fax: 040 608 4247

Dear Mr Kojana

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL DEWORMING PROGRAMME DURING 2018

South Africa is a signatory of the World Health Assembly Resolution 54.19 (May 2001), as well as the Resolution on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) (WHA 66.12), which calls for regular, synchronised treatment of Soil Transmitted Helminth (STH) in high-risk groups and aims to achieve the World Health Organisation (WHO) NTD control and elimination targets.

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration on the implementation of the National Deworming Programme. Since 2016, more than **9.6 million learners** were dewormed cumulatively through a donation of deworming tablets by the WHO. Without your support, this could not be achieved. The National Deworming Programme is delivered through the Integrated School Health (ISHP) and National School Nutrition Programmes (NSNP).

In 2018, deworming will take place once more outside of the Human Papillomavirus Vaccination campaign due to the late submission of provincial reports which resulted in the late approval of tablets. Based on the recommendations of the WHO, for 2018 **all 5 to 14 year old children will be targeted** (Grades R to 7); this includes children in special and private schools, quintile 1 to 5 schools, as well as out-of-school children. It is estimated that approximately 1 354 400 children are targeted in your province.

Based on preliminary results received from DOH, all districts in Eastern Cape Province are exposed to worms and the highest prevalence of worms are in Sarah Baartman, Amathole, Nelson Mandela Bay and Buffalo City Districts (between 20 000 and 50 000 worm eggs per gram of faeces). To discuss the report, as well as the implementation of the deworming programme in 2018, kindly provide a meeting date to Ms Soldo (Soldo.A@de.gov.za) urgently.

Province specific implementation plans are being developed. Programme implementation will take place during April to June 2018 and should be concluded by 29 June 2018 so that a national report on the number of children dewormed and the number of unused tablets, can be submitted on time to the WHO.

Please note that the Department of Basic Education (DBE) is responsible for:

- Access to consent forms, to be completed by the parents. Children may not participate in the programme if the parents have not consented;
- Advocacy and orientation, especially to those schools that have not participated previously (quintile 4 to 5 and independent schools);
- Collaboration with the DoH such as agreeing on a schedule and implementation plan;
- **Provincial plans regarding the implementation of the programme must be communicated to schools through circulars to enhance clarity and collaboration;**
- Administration of the deworming tablets (mebendazole) to learners; and
- Submit a provincial report on the reach of the programme by 15 July 2018.

The Department of Health will:

- Issue the mebendazole tablets to educators and receive the unused tablets;
- Collaborate with the DBE such as agreeing on a schedule and implementation plan;
- Provide advice to educators (indirect supervision), and treatment to learners, regarding side effects such as nausea and cramps associated with administration of the mebendazole; and
- Provide a provincial report on the number of unused tablets by 15 July 2018.

Successful implementation of this programme depends on close collaboration between the DBE, Health and Social Development. Please ensure that ISHP and NSNP provincial and district officials, as well as principals continue to collaborate with their counterparts and plan and implement the programme.

Should you require additional information, please contact the above mentioned official.

Thank you once again for supporting this programme which is to the benefit of our children and communities.

Yours sincerely



MR HM MWELI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 14/03/2018



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001, Sol Plaatje House, 222 Struben Street, Pretoria, 0002, South Africa
Tel.: (012) 357 3000, Fax: (012) 323 0601, www.education.gov.za

**TO: DISTRICT MANAGERS
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
OFFICIALS OF THE INTEGRATED SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMME
OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME
PRINCIPALS OF BOTH PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS
EDUCATORS**

CIRCULAR S2 OF 2018: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL DEWORMING PROGRAMME DURING 2018

1. South Africa is a signatory of the World Health Assembly Resolution 54.19 (May 2001), as well as the Resolution on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) (WHA 66.12), which calls for regular, synchronised treatment of Soil Transmitted Helminth (STH) in high-risk groups and aims to achieve the World Health Organisation (WHO) NTD control and elimination targets.
2. Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration on the implementation of the National Deworming Programme. Since 2016, more than **9.6 million learners** were dewormed cumulatively through a donation by the WHO. Without your support, this could not be achieved. The National Deworming Programme is delivered through the Integrated School Health (ISHP) and National School Nutrition Programmes (NSNP).
3. Deworming learners is a low cost intervention that aims to assist learners to perform to the best of their abilities. Evidence has shown that deworming leads to improved health status, increased productivity, educational performance, life expectancy, savings, and decreased debts and expenditure on health care. Studies in the US have shown that worm infections lower's literacy levels by 13% and lower's earnings later in life by 43%. Research in Western Kenya showed that school based mass deworming decrease absenteeism by 25%¹.
4. Based on WHO recommendations, the target for 2018 is the population of 5 to 14 year old children (Grades R to 7 in quintiles 1 to 5, special and independent schools). Programme implementation will take place during the second quarter and must be concluded by 29 June 2018, to allow timely submission of provincial reports on the reach of the programme. The final submission date for provincial reports is 15 July 2018, in order to submit a national report to WHO on time.
5. Schools are responsible for:
 - Ensuring that learners have access to consent forms, to be completed by parent/guardians. Only children with signed consent may participate in the programme;
 - Advocacy to parents and teachers as worms can spread easily. Advocacy is important, especially to those schools that have not participated previously (quintile 4 to 5 and independent schools);
 - Agree with a school health nurse on a date that deworming can take place;

¹ Stewart Kabaka, Christine Wanza Kisia. National Deworming Programme: Kenia's Experience. 19-21 October 2011.

- Administration of the deworming tablets (mebendazole) to learners after explaining the procedure to the learners;
 - Record the number of learners that were dewormed on the school recording sheet;
 - Submit the deworming recording sheet to the district NSNP Co-ordinator within 2 days of deworming and keep a copy thereof for future reference.
6. School nurses will issue the mebendazole tablets to educators and receive again the unused tablets. They will also provide advice to educators (indirect supervision), and treatment to learners, regarding side effects such as nausea and cramps associated with administration of the deworming tablets.
7. Successful implementation of this programme is dependent on close collaboration between principals and school health nurses. Please continue to collaborate with your counterparts to implement the programme.
8. Please note that province specific implementation plans are being developed. Kindly contact the provincial or district co-ordinator of the ISHP or NSNP for more information regarding implementation.

Yours sincerely



MR HM MWELI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 14/02/2018