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Department of Education

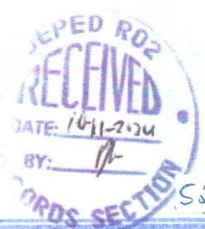
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS

DepEd Regional Office No. 02



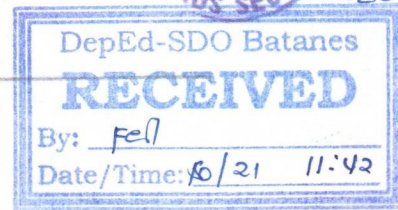
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MEMORANDUM

DM-OUOPS-2024-09-08267



TO : BARM EDUCATION MINISTER AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS

FROM : ATTY. REVSEE A. ESCOBEDO
Undersecretary for Operations



SUBJECT : ONE HEALTH WEEK FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

DATE : September 27, 2024

1. In line with the Department of Education's (DepEd) commitment to promote health and well-being among learners and personnel, this Office, through the Bureau of Learner Support Services, enjoins School Health and Nutrition (SHN) and other Non - Teaching Personnel to invite and/or mobilize schools in their respective areas of jurisdiction to participate in the celebration of **One Health Week**, as institutionalized by **DepEd Order (DO) No. 28, s. 2018** titled *Policy and Guidelines on Oplan Kalusugan sa Department of Education*.
2. **For School Year 2024-2025**, the celebration is set from **October 21 to 25, 2024**.
3. It is clarified that *One Health Week* is the activity referred to as "*Oplan Kalusugan sa DepEd*" under the month of September 2024 (TBA) of the Enclosure No. 2 (Monthly School Calendar of Activities) of **DO No. 09, s. 2024** titled *Implementing Guidelines on the School Calendar and Activities for the School Year 2024-2025*. All other activities related to *Oplan Kalusugan sa DepEd* (OK sa DepEd) and its flagship programs are expected to be implemented throughout the school year, as guided by their respective DepEd issuances.
4. Originally scheduled under the old school calendar "*every second week of July to emphasize the importance of health and nutrition services in achieving the learners' full educational potential and supporting the personnel's productivity*" (Section V. E, Item No. 1, DO No. 28, s. 2018), the celebration of *One Health Week* for this School Year has been further moved to the new schedule in order to:
 - a. Provide school health personnel and schools enough time to prepare for the celebration as the new School Year opened only in the last week of July; and
 - b. Strategically align the celebration with the observance of **School Health Month** every month of October, as declared by Presidential Proclamation No. 471, s. 1994, and in line with DepEd Memorandum (DM) No. 148, s. 2005 titled *School Celebrations of Significant Event*.

October 16, 2024

To: SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS

For your information, reference and appropriate action

BENJAMIN D. PARAGAS PhD, CESO III
Director IV/Regional Director



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5. The theme for this School Year's *One Health Week* will be "**OK sa DepEd ang Eskwelahang Healthy**." This reflects the DepEd's commitment to intensifying school health programs under *OK sa DepEd*, as the means to ensure that schools become "*healthy learning institutions*" (HLI) or safe and healthy environments that promote the wellbeing and holistic development of learners.
6. During the *One Health Week*, schools, with technical assistance from SHN personnel, are enjoined to conduct activities related to the **six flagship programs of OK sa DepEd (OKD)**, particularly geared toward strengthening the **six pillars of OKD-HLI**. Following are examples of such activities:

OKD-HLI Pillar	Suggested Activities
Healthy School Policy - Health promotion policies and/or plans with adequate funding are present and implemented in the school	• Conduct of orientation/awareness activities on <i>OK sa DepEd and Healthy Learning Institution</i> programs, focusing on promoting the health, safety, and well-being of learners in schools • In coordination with the Supreme Learner Government Conduct of a one-day learner activity designed to empower health promoting advocacies and foster a sense of civic responsibility.
Health Skills and Education - Health is integrated into the curriculum and teachers are prepared for their role as key participants in health promotion	• Integration of health topics into regular classes to reinforce the importance of maintaining physical and mental health • Conduct of health and hygiene drills (e.g., handwashing, toothbrushing) • Conduct of school gardening activities to highlight important health and nutrition concepts • Conduct of Daily exercises, school sports and recreational activities to promote healthy active lifestyles • Highlighting the importance of nutrition and balanced diets in the curriculum • Conduct of fora/symposiums on health and wellness • Strengthening the integration of the CSE-ARH concepts in the curriculum
Social School Environment - The school ensures that the quality of relationships among staff and students promotes health and wellbeing	• Conduct of activities for socialization among and between learners, school personnel, and other stakeholders, such as recreational and sports activities, engaging in brainstorming sessions and and group activities that reinforce the importance of health • Conduct of wellness activities for school personnel and learners • Conduct of peer health navigation such as but not limited to substance use prevention, ARH peer health activities, and mental health support. This may be done in coordination with the Supreme Learner Government (SLG) under the supervision of the guidance counselor/designate and/or their respective teacher-advisers.

OKD-HLI Pillar	Suggested Activities
Physical School Environment - The physical environment is safe, secure, healthy, and inclusive for the school community before, during, and after school hours	• Display/posting of IEC materials reinforcing key messages related to the <i>OK sa DepEd</i> programs • Designating/making available areas and facilities for playground and sports activities that can be utilized in the promotion/use of activities that contribute to health and wellness • Conduct of Open house activities in school canteens featuring healthy food and beverage choices
Access to Health Care - Basic and emergency health services are available in school; Internal and external referral systems are functional	• Basic medical and dental health check-ups, referral and treatment made available for learners and personnel, especially during the One Health Week or the School Health Month (e.g., volunteer doctors, dentists, and nurses may be invited to provide such services to learners) • Conduct of psychosocial screening and assessment (HEEADSSS) for SDO's with functional referral mechanisms
Links with the Community - The school community collaborates and engages with parents/guardians and local stakeholders to recognize mutual benefits	• Involvement of parents and community partners for the effective implementation of school health programs and activities • Establishment of school sports club • Collaboration with the Local Government Units, as the latter also have their own iterations and initiatives relative to drug prevention. Experts from barangay and/or community health centers may be mobilized to act as resource persons in seminars and/or lectures. Or the LGU may be utilized to establish partnership with health-related external organization the LGUs have prior connection with. • Conduct of fora with parents/guardians as participants of lectures and/or seminars on drug abuse prevention and other health related programs of the <i>Ok sa DepEd</i>. This is crucial in their role as primary caregivers in the promotion of health and wellness among learners and the school community in general • Conduct of orientations on membership, rules and activities of sports and other school clubs

Attached as **Annex A** are more information about OKD-HLI.

7. BLSS-SHD shall conduct **a national kick-off activity for the *One Health Week* on October 21, 2024, Monday, in Manila**. Details about the kickoff shall be communicated through a separate issuance.
8. For ready reference, following are other activities coordinated by the BLSS-SHD that also take place during the School Health Month:

- a. Bakuna Eskwela Kickoff Event (October 7, 2024, organized by the DOH), aligned with the resumption of school-based immunization (DM-OUOPS-2024-03-06789)
 - b. *Lakas sa Gatas* Milk Campaign (DM 36, s. 2024)
 - c. National Mental Health Week (second week of October) and World Mental Health Day (October 10) with the theme, "*It is Time to Prioritize Mental Health in the Workplace*" (OM-OUOPS-2024-09-06964)
 - d. Global Handwashing Day (October 15, 2024) (may be observed through simultaneous handwashing activities among learners, teaching, and non-teaching personnel, and other stakeholders at a designated time)
9. Activities started during the *One Health Week* "*shall be continued within the school year in coordination with [SHN personnel and partners]*" (DO 28, s. 2018, Section V. F, Item No. 1).
 10. In compliance with DO 09, s. 2024, schools are reminded "[that in order] to optimize instructional time, the significance of the [*One Health Week and the School Health Month*] may be integrated into relevant learning areas" and "to adhere to **DO 9, s. 2005** titled *Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-On-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith*" (Section V. B, Item No. 16).
 11. Expenses for the activities related to the conduct of the *One Health Week* and the *School Health Month* may be charged to local funds, or the downloaded Program Support Funds for selected *OK sa DepEd* programs, as allowed, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
 12. Regional Directors and Schools Division Superintendents are encouraged to provide necessary support for the conduct of the activities.
 13. For reporting purposes, Regional Offices and Schools Division Offices, through the respective SHN units/sections, shall document the activities conducted during the *One Health Week*, following the data requirements of *OK sa DepEd* Forms A and B enclosed in DO 28, s. 2018 and include the same in the reports to be submitted to BLSS-SHD through existing mechanisms.
 14. Immediate dissemination of this memorandum is desired.
 15. For further questions or clarifications, please contact Dr. Maria Corazon C. Dumlao, Chief Health Program Officer, BLSS-SHD through telephone no. (02) 8632-9935 or email at blss.shd@deped.gov.ph.

[BLSS-SHD/CDC,09/26/24;GMA,10/01/24]

Annex A

INFORMATION ABOUT OPLAN KALUSUGAN SA DEPED-HEALTHY LEARNING INSTITUTIONS (OK SA DEPED-/OKD-HLI)

Oplan Kalusugan sa DepEd or OK sa DepEd (OKD), launched through **DepEd Order No. 28, s. 2018**, is the convergence of DepEd's health and nutrition initiatives for their effective and efficient implementation at the school level, in partnership with various stakeholders. OKD focuses on six flagship programs:

1. **School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP)** - provides hot meals or nutritious food products and milk to selected learners to improve their classroom attendance and nutritional status

Nutrition-Sensitive Programs - implemented alongside the SBFP, designed to promote and maintain the nutritional well-being of learners

2. **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools (WinS) Program** - comprehensive, sustainable, and scalable school-based program that sets the basic requirements and standards on five key elements: (1) Water, (2) Sanitation, (3) Hygiene, (4) Deworming, (5) Health education

3. **Medical and Nursing Services** - include health examination, treatment, and referral of learners; conduct of hearing and vision screening; school-based immunization; weekly iron folic acid supplementation; and deworming

Dental Services - include promotive, preventive, and curative services such as oral examination and oral urgent treatment, application of fluoride varnish, dental health education, tooth brushing drills, and distribution of hygiene kits

4. **National Drug Education Program (NDEP)** - a comprehensive educational program which provides for a holistic approach to the problem of drug abuse by collaborating with all sectors under a unified, scientific, research-based, and responsive procedure

Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program - in support of NDEP, focuses on implementing the global treaty Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and national tobacco control laws and issuances in schools

5. **Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) Program** - aims to strengthen the delivery of DepEd's mandate under Republic Act 10354 or the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012, through (1) Promotion, (2) Learner support centers, (3) Peer navigation, (4) Service delivery, and (5) Referral systems

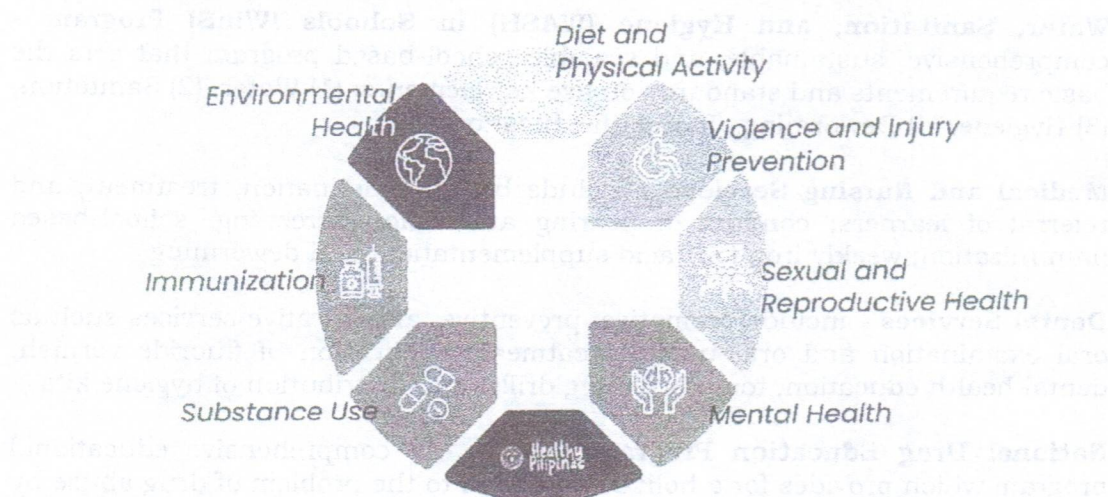
6. **School Mental Health Program (SMHP)¹** - focuses on DepEd's mandate under Republic Act 11036 or the Mental Health Act to ensure the mental health and wellbeing of learners through mental health promotion, screening and assessment, interventions, and referral systems

¹ Although not listed in DepEd Order No. 28, s. 2018, the SMHP was first announced as the sixth flagship program under *OK sa DepEd* during the 2018 School Health Congress. At that time, DepEd, through BLSS-SHD, was participating in the drafting and finalization of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for Republic Act 11036 or the Mental Health Act. The first School Mental Health Forum organized by BLSS-SHD in October 2018 served as the venue to consult DepEd stakeholders on their inputs to the IRR.

In 2022, DepEd became a signatory to the **DOH-DSWD-DepEd-CHED-LEB-TESDA-DILG Joint Administrative Order (JAO) 2022-0001** titled *Guidelines on Healthy Settings Framework in Learning Institutions*. Pursuant to Section 30 of Republic Act 11223 or the *Universal Health Care (UHC) Act*, the JAO operationalizes the designation of schools as healthy settings or as “healthy learning institutions” based on standards set by the Department of Health (DOH) and DepEd.²

The HLI framework was ceremonially launched in DepEd on October 11, 2022 during the national kick-off of OKD for School Year 2022-2023. During the launch, it was announced that HLI would be adopted as the framework for OKD, although the DepEd Order operationalizing the said adoption is still underway.³ Since then, efforts related to HLI in DepEd have been referred to as “OKD-HLI.”

The JAO provides that “the goals of the healthy learning institutions framework shall be guided by the **key priority areas** in the Health Promotion Framework Strategy (HPFS)⁴,” namely:



Through OKD-HLI, DepEd recognizes that its flagship health programs under *OK sa DepEd* are parallel with these priority areas of the HPFS:

OKD Flagship Programs	HPFS Priority Areas
SBFP	Diet and Physical Activity
Nutrition Sensitive Programs	Immunization
Medical, Dental, and Nursing Services	Violence and Injury Prevention
WinS Program	Environmental Health
ARH Program	Sexual and Reproductive Health
NDEP	Substance Use
Comprehensive Tobacco Control Program	Mental Health
SMHP	

² The soft copy of the JAO can also be accessed at <https://bit.ly/HLIJAO2022>

³ DOH, DepEd Launch Healthy Learning Institutions to Strengthen School Health Programs,

<https://www.deped.gov.ph/2022/10/12/doh-deped-launch-healthy-learning-institutions-to-strengthen-school-health-programs/>

⁴ The soft copy of the HPFS can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/okdhlifootnotes>



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

09-08247

ROUTING SLIP

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The JAO further provides that “policies, activities, and implementation of the healthy learning institutions framework shall be in line with the six pillars of the WHO Health Promoting Schools Framework,” as shown in the figure below⁵:



Operationally, OKD-HLI translates to a set of standards for each pillar that schools shall strive to achieve to be considered “healthy learning institutions.” Descriptions of the interventions per pillar are as follows:

Pillar	Description
Healthy School Policy	Health promotion policies and/or plans with adequate funding are present and implemented in the school.
Links with the Community	The school community collaborates and engages with parents and local stakeholders to recognize mutual benefits.
Physical School Environment	The physical environment is safe, secure, healthy and inclusive for the school community before, during and after school hours.
Social School Environment	The school ensures that the quality of relationships among staff and learners promotes health and wellbeing.
Health Skills and Education	Health is integrated into the curriculum and teachers are prepared for their role as key participants in health promotion.
Access to Health Care	Basic and emergency health services are available in school. Internal and external referral systems are functional.

While DepEd fulfills its roles and responsibilities for the establishment of HLIs in basic education through OKD-HLI, the DOH continues to complement such efforts by funding and implementing HLI-related initiatives and coordinates the same with DepEd. DepEd offices and schools have been strongly encouraged to actively participate in and support such initiatives from the DOH.

⁵ The UHC Act and the JAO were drafted when the WHO had “six pillars” of health promoting schools (HPS). In 2021, the WHO updated these to “eight global standards for HPS” which are “intended to function as a system.” The figure shows how the “pillars” as adopted in the JAO parallel with the “global standards” presented as a system in the 2021 WHO document. The document can be accessed at: <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/341907/9789240025059-eng.pdf>