Subject: Conducting National Deworming Day on 10th February, 2015

Soil transmitted helminths (STH) are a significant public health concern for India. Around 241 million (68%) children are estimated to be at risk of parasitic intestinal worm infestation. Evidence has shown detrimental impact of STH infestation on physical growth – anaemia, undernutrition and cognitive development. Children with the highest intensity STH infections are often too sick or too tired to concentrate at school or attend school and anganwadi centers at all. Subsequent life outcomes for these children are also considerably impacted due to lower lifetime incomes. Periodic deworming of children together with improvement of water and sanitation, and health education can reduce the transmission of STH infections.

Global experience have shown that launching a high quality mass deworming program to reach children and adolescents at scale could dramatically reduce the harm caused by STH on millions of children in India in a cost effective, simple and safe manner. Thus, with an aim to intensify efforts towards STH control, it has been decided to conduct National Deworming Day (NDD) on 10th February, 2015 (Tuesday) followed by a Mop-Up round on 13th February, 2015 (Friday).

Considering the States’ preparedness for effectively conducting the deworming round, it has been decided to begin with National Deworming Day in selected 12 States namely Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura in the first phase.

During the National Deworming Day, all the children of age 1 – 19 years will be provided Albendazole through the platform of school and Anganwadi centers except in identified Lymphatic Filariasis endemic districts.

A detailed NDD Toolkit containing Operational framework, monitoring checklists, FAQs and Factsheets is enclosed with this letter. As part of National Deworming Day, school teachers and Anganwadi workers would provide Albendazole to all 1 – 19 years of children on 10th February, 2015 and missed children would be covered on the Mop-Up day i.e. 13th February, 2015. Anganwadi workers alongwith ASHA and school teachers are also encouraged to address awareness generation prior to 10th February through VHSNC meetings, household visits, gram Panchayats etc. for dissemination of messages on the benefits of deworming and ensuring Albendazole coverage on the NDD. Ensuring safe potable water and sanitation and hygiene is critical to avoid incidence of re-infection as well as to reduce the intensity of the STH infestation. The IEC materials available with your ministry regarding water, sanitation, hygiene may also be used during NDD as sanitation and safe water is closely associated with re-infection of STH and high worm load.

You are thus requested to inform State Department for Water and Sanitation, Hygiene for necessary support to State Health Department for successful implementation of the NDD.

With warm regards!

Yours Sincerely,

(Lov Verma)

Encl : As above

Ms. Vijaylaxmi Joshi,
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