Dear Municipal Secretary,

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. Evidences have shown detrimental impact of STH infestation on physical growth and cognitive development. 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 Nation-wide 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 being 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, Adverse Event Protocol, monitoring checklist, FAQs and Factsheet is enclosed with this letter. State is requested to gear up the procurement process, ensure drug logistic supply, training efforts, printing of IEC materials, broadcasting of audio-visual materials, printing & distribution of formats upto every school & anganwadi centers and undertake required steps for effective implementation of NDD. Active involvement of Education Department, Women and Child Development Department, Department of Water and Sanitation and Panchayati Raj Institutions is critical to the success and impact of the National Deworming Day.

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A one day workshop for the State Program Managers has been planned on 19th January, 2015 at the National level and details for the same would be intimated soon.

I am certain that the States and UTs on their part will proactively do the utmost to ensure successful implementation of National Deworming Day on 10th February, 2015.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

[Signature]

To
Principal Secretaries (Health) of States/UTs of
Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Haryana, Karnataka,
Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura

Copy to:
1. Mission Director [NHM] of States/UTs of
   Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Haryana, Karnataka,
   Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura
2. JS (Policy), JS (RCH)
3. DC (CH&I), DC(CH), DC(AH)

Enclosed:
1. NDD toolkit containing NDD Operational Plan, Reporting Formats, Monitoring checklist, Factsheet, FAQs, Adverse Event Protocol for Deworming
2. List of districts identified endemic for Lymphatic Filariasis which would be excluded from the National Deworming Day for selected 12 States