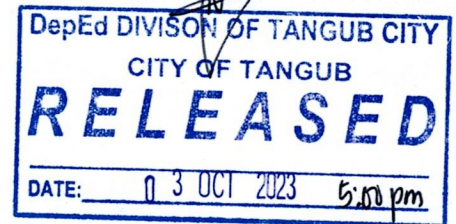




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region X

SCHOOLS DIVISION OF TANGUB CITY



October 1, 2023

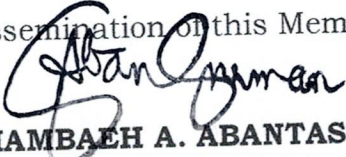
DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 748, s.2023

OBSERVANCE OF HEALTH PROTOCOLS IN SCHOOLS AND DIVISION OFFICE IN LIGHT WITH NIPAH VIRUS

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisor (CID and SGOD)
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District In - Charge
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
Private School Principals
All Others Concerned
This Division

1. The Department of Health (DOH), Northern Mindanao released a press statement dated September 27, 2023, on misinformation circulated in Cagayan De Oro in relation to the Nipah Virus. Thus, the DOH officially maintains that there are no NIPAH Virus cases in the country.
2. However, in the interest of public health, all learners, school, and division personnel are encouraged to take precautionary measures to minimize exposure or risk of viral illness by handwashing and disinfection, proper wearing of masks, proper ventilation, and isolation of self if with symptoms like cough, headache, joint pain, and soar throat, seek consultation and avoid self- medication.
3. Schools shall ensure the availability of handwashing facilities with soap in line with DepEd Order No. s. 2016 titled *Policy and Guidelines for the Comprehensive Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in School (WinS) Program*.
4. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


SHAMBAEH A. ABANTAS - USMAN, PHD CESE
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT- NORTHERN MINDANAO



PRESS STATEMENT
September 27, 2023

It has been a day since the initial news circulated in Cagayan de Oro that simply expressed concern for the plight of some staff and students who had been afflicted by a "viral illness" were distributed over social media. A copy of the document posted on Facebook claims that the Nipah Virus is the main reason for the commotion. Thus, we would like to correct this misinformation. The DOH officially maintains that there are no Nipah Virus cases in the nation. Although there have been instances of both faculty and students here in Cagayan de Oro who are exhibiting the signs and symptoms of the viral illness, it is not yet clear whether a particular virus is to blame. Despite the fact that the Nipah Virus is new to us, it is not brand new to other Asian nations like India and Malaysia, where it has been reported in humans and animals and caused serious illnesses and even death in animals and human alike.

Pigs, horses, and fruit-eating bats' excrement, saliva, and blood extracts are sources of infected henipahvirus disease transmission and the chance in getting it are high. If individuals come into contact with infected animals or their body fluids, they risk contracting the disease.

As precautionary measures, the following are considered to be appropriate actions when exposed to the blood, saliva, or excrement from pigs, horses, or bats: always use protective gear like goggles; face mask and boots; avoid being with sick animals; stay away from bat nests and interacting with pigs and horses; throw away fruit that has been bitten by bats and avoid eating fruit near places where bats have their nests; and, ensure that the food is clean and well-prepared.

Five cases of the current Nipah Virus outbreak have been recorded in India. However, due to the lack of laboratory-confirmed cases of the virus, the Department of Health officially maintains that there are no Nipah Virus cases in the country, at the moment. Although there have been instances of faculty and students in some schools in Cagayan de Oro exhibiting same signs and symptoms of the said disease, it is not yet clear whether this is caused by the said virus, because their signs and symptoms are common with other viral infections also.

Furthermore, the DOH advocates for preventive steps like hand washing, proper mask use, proper ventilation, isolation of self if with symptoms, and other minimal public health requirements to prevent the spread of more infections of a similar nature.

If you experience symptoms like fever, cough, headache, joint pain, vomiting, and sore throat, visit the closest health care facility, seek consultation, and do not self-medicate. Human infections can range from asymptomatic to deadly encephalitis and severe respiratory infections.

Be proactive, to ward off against illnesses! Guarantee safety!