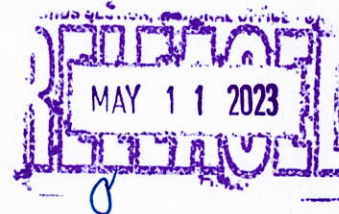




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
CARAGA REGION



May 11, 2023

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. 0369, s. 2023

To: SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
This region

ADVISORY ON 2023 EL NIÑO CYCLE AND
SUBMISSION OF MONITORING REPORT

1. The recent conditions and model forecasts of DOST-PAGASA indicate that El Niño may emerge in the coming season (June-August) at 80% probability and may persist until the first quarter of 2024. Due to this development, the PAGASA El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Alert and Warning System is now raised to **El Niño Alert**.

2. Scientists have established the strong link between El Niño and disease outbreaks in a study of the severe El Niño event in 2015-2016, which generated excess rainfall and flooding, drought, and temperature extremes that created ecological conditions potentially favoring disease transmission in affected regions worldwide.

3. To help lessen the impact of El Niño and reduce potential disease outbreak that may affect the personnel and learners, this office hereby directed all Schools Division Offices and schools to:

- Ensure the availability of clean and potable water within school premises effectively implementing hygiene and sanitation practices such as regular handwashing and eliminating breeding places for dengue-carrying mosquitoes,
- Instruct teachers and other school personnel to observe students, especially those with co-morbidities and other health problems, to watch for signs and symptoms of disease or health-related conditions,
- Ensure that first aid kits/supplies are ready and there is an available health care provider for proper diagnosis and treatment; and,
- Instruct school health personnel to communicate to the school populace the importance of good health practices, vaccinations, and the contents of this advisory to prevent disease and other health conditions with the expected onset of the El Niño weather cycle.



Address: J.P. Rosales Avenue, Butuan City
Trunkline No: (085) 225-1151
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2023-05-06265

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4. Per DOH advisory, all DepEd Offices and schools shall practice preventive measures such as:

- Conserving water
- Protecting water sources contamination
- Staying hydrated by drinking eight glasses of water a day
- Listening to updates on shellfish ban
- Wearing light clothing
- Taking a bath daily to cool the body and prevent rashes and skin infections
- Storing enough water in clean and covered containers
- Reducing breeding sites of mosquitoes
- Avoiding strenuous physical activity
- Switching off lights and other appliances not in use
- Using sunblock or sunscreen when going out
- Seeking medical attention if experiencing symptoms of disease

5. SDOs are requested to disseminate the IEC Materials for El Niño issued by DOST-PAGASA. The materials can be accessed thru the Google Drive link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/18GRTeBJyE6MiwEUPvuUwHVryhQ1DtLew>.

6. Schools are instructed to briefly discuss the materials to the personnel, learners and their parents on the preventive measures against the effects of El Niño. SDOs and schools may opt to reproduce the materials for dissemination and/or posting on the bulletin or announcement boards in the school premises or inside the classrooms.

7. SDOs shall continuously monitor the schools of any reports related to El Niño, disease outbreak, and/or food poisoning. DRRM Coordinators and Health Personnel shall team-up in the monitoring and reporting of situations in the schools while the schools shall also be ready for any emergencies or incidents.

8. Reports shall consist of the preventive and response measures of the SDOs and schools (see attached template) and shall be consolidated and submitted to this office thru the Regional DRRM Coordinator, Megnon P. Beldad, at email add: megnon.beldad@deped.gov.ph.

9. For fast transmission of report, SDOs and schools may also access the link: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13WgEuLGIvP5Xa0lqFFu6KxLsdVv4iLWuB0BKjhcLGkY/edit?usp=sharing> to input their reports.

10. All links for the reporting template and access to IEC materials were already shared to SDO DRRMCs thru DepEd Caraga DRRM official chatgroups. SDO DRRMCs shall likewise forward the same to their school DRRMC group. Reports shall be monitored on a daily basis for updates.



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11. Lastly, DepEd Personnel are reminded on the code of conduct on the use of images that show affected learners in negative or undignified projections, especially in personal social media accounts.

12. Should there be a need of photos of learners for advocacy materials or reporting purposes, the teacher and the school should have obtained the consent of the students, or parents, in case of minor students when photos or images of them are to be used. School personnel shall refrain from posting sensitive information about the learners on social media or any other public-use platform for the latter's safety and security.

13. For immediate dissemination.


MA. GEMMA MERCADO LEDESMA
Regional Director 

Encl/s.: OUPS NO. 2023-04-4305

BLSS MEMORANDUM

Reference/s: NONE

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

DRRM EL NIÑO PAGASA

ESSD/mpb
05/10/2023



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
OPERATIONS

OUOPS No. 2023-04- 4365
MEMORANDUM

TO : **ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS**
ALL SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL HEADS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : 
Atty. REVSEE A. ESCOBEDO
Undersecretary for Operations

SUBJECT : **Information Dissemination and Reporting of Preparedness**
and Response Measures for El Niño

DATE : May 03, 2023

In relation to OASOPS Memorandum No. 2023-077, *Reiteration of the Implementation of Modular Distance Learning as Provided in DepEd Order No. 37, s. 2022*, the Department of Science and Technology Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST-PAGASA) *Adoption of the PAGASA El Niño-Southern Oscillation Alert and Warning System*, and the latest PAGASA update issued on 23 March 2023 stating:

*"Based on recent conditions and model forecasts, El Niño will likely develop in Jul-Aug-Sept (JAS) 2023 season and may persist until 2024. With this development, the PAGASA ENSO Alert and Warning System is now raised to **El Niño Watch**.*

*El Niño (warm phase of ENSO) is characterized by unusually warmer than average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific (CEEP). When conditions are favorable for the development of El Niño within the next six months and the probability is 55% or more, an **El Niño Watch** is issued.*

El Niño increases the likelihood of below-normal rainfall conditions, which could bring negative impacts (such as dry spells and droughts) in some areas of the country. However, over the western part of the country, above-normal rainfall

DRRMS_PJZ/05022023

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conditions during the Southwest monsoon season (Habagat) may also be expected.”

In order to protect the safety and security of our learners and personnel, the Office of the Undersecretary for Operations instructs the Regional and Schools Division Offices, and Public and Private Schools to undertake the following measures:

1. Monitoring and regular dissemination of PAGASA Heat Index and Weather Forecasts, accessible through:
 - a. <https://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/climate/climate-heat-index>
 - b. <https://www.pagasa.dost.gov.ph/weather#daily-weather-forecast>
2. Dissemination of any available IEC materials on preparedness measures for El Niño; Refer to the attached IEC materials from DOST and DOH. These IEC Materials shall also be provided to the Regional DRRM Coordinators;
3. Reporting of preparedness and response measures implemented to reduce the negative impact of high heat frequencies due to extreme climate conditions.

All Regional DRRM Coordinators shall report the consolidated preparedness and response actions being undertaken in their Area of Responsibility to the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service through drmo@deped.gov.ph on or before **May 19, 2023**.

For your information and appropriate action.

ANNEX. A

**REGIONAL CONSOLIDATED PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE MEASURES IN
CONNECTION WITH *EL NIÑO***

REGION: _____

PREPAREDNESS and RESPONSE MEASURES	IMPLEMENTING DIVISIONS	EARLIEST DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
BUREAU OF LEARNER SUPPORT SERVICES

Office of the Director

MEMORANDUM

FOR : *Revsee A. Escobedo*
Atty. REVSEE A. ESCOBEDO
Undersecretary for Operations

FROM : *Nenneth Esplana-Alama*
NENNETH ESPLANA-ALAMA, PhD.
Director *FAA VcV*

SUBJECT : **ADVISORY ON THE PREVENTION OF DISEASE DURING
THE 2023 EL NIÑO CYCLE**

DATE : **April 27, 2023**

This Office respectfully submits the attached advisory on the Prevention of Disease During the 2023 El Niño Cycle.

The said advisory is intended for dissemination to DepEd field offices.

For approval of the Undersecretary.

SHD_APQ/04272023

Room 301, 3F Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Telephone No.: (02) 8632-9935 | blss.shd@deped.gov.ph



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
BUREAU OF LEARNER SUPPORT SERVICES

Office of the Director

**ADVISORY ON THE PREVENTION OF DISEASE DURING
THE 2023 EL NIÑO CYCLE
April 27, 2023**

1. Authorities have declared the strong possibility of El Niño developing from July to September 2023 and persisting into the first quarter of 2024. This weather phenomenon is characterized by extreme climatic conditions, that is – extreme temperature rise with a little rainfall and, at the opposite end, unusually heavy rainfall.
2. Scientists have established the strong link between El Niño and disease outbreaks in a study of the severe El Niño event of 2015-2016, which generated excess rainfall and flooding, drought, and temperature extremes that created ecological conditions potentially favoring disease transmission in affected regions worldwide.
3. The Department of Health (DOH) has noted the health problems engendered by this weather cycle, including diseases related to water scarcity or shortage such as diarrhea and skin diseases, paralytic shellfish poisoning due to Red Tide Blooms, disorders associated with high temperatures such as heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and heat-associated diseases such as sore eyes and measles.
4. In light of the above, the Department of Education (DepEd) reiterates the DOH advisory in favor of: (a) conserving water and using it wisely, (b) protecting water sources from contamination, (c) staying hydrated by drinking eight glasses of water a day, (d) listening to updates on the shellfish ban, (e) wearing light clothing, (f) taking a bath every day to cool the body and prevent rashes and skin infections, (g) storing enough water in clean and covered containers, (h) reducing breeding sites of mosquitoes, (i) avoiding strenuous physical activity, (j) switching off lights and other appliances when not in use, (k) using sunblock or sunscreen when going out, and (l) seeking medical attention if experiencing symptoms of a disease.
5. Furthermore, the DOH strongly enumerates the following: (a) avoiding strenuous physical activities, (b) not drinking from doubtful water sources, (c) not staying under the sun without proper protection, especially from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., (d) avoiding self-medication, and (e) avoiding drinking too much coffee and alcoholic beverages.
6. School officials are instructed to take the lead in protecting learners, teachers, and non-teaching personnel from the above threats to health by:

SHD APQ/04272023

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- a) Ensuring the availability of clean and potable water within school premises, effectively implementing hygiene and sanitation practices including proper handwashing on a regular basis, and eliminating breeding places for dengue-carrying mosquitoes within school premises as mandated under the WinS Program;
 - b) Instructing teachers and other school personnel to observe students, especially those with co-morbidities and other health problems, to watch for signs and symptoms of disease or heat-related health conditions to ensure they are given first aid treatment in a timely manner and referred to a health care provider for proper diagnosis and treatment; and
 - c) Instructing school health personnel to communicate to the school populace the importance of good health practices, vaccination, and the contents of this Advisory to prevent disease and other health conditions with the expected onset of the El Niño weather cycle.
7. For questions and clarifications, you may contact **Dr. Maria Corazon C. Dumlao**, Chief of the Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health Division (BLSS-SHD), through (02) 8632-9935 or email at blss.shd@deped.gov.ph
8. Immediate dissemination of this Advisory is desired.


NENNETH ESPALANA-ALAMA, PhD
Director IV, Bureau of Learner Support Services

MD. FJCY