

Dated: 28.01.2020.

No: 57

Sub: Implementation of National De-worming Programme in all private Schools in Delhi.

Director General of Health Services is implementing National De-worming Programme in all Govt & Private Schools on 10.2.2020.

In this Programme Albendazole Chewable Tablet will be distributed to all children as a single dose on 10.2.2020 from Class Nursery to Class XII.

Parents are therefore requested to give the consent in writing latest by 3.2.2020 so that the Tablet Albendazole could be given to their child.

The Indian Academy of Paediatrics through Delhi govt. has informed that the Tab Albendazole is one of the safest drugs which hardly gets absorbed in circulation. The letter of India Academy of paediatrics can be seen at the school website.

  
PRINCIPAL

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CONSENT SLIP

I \_\_\_\_\_ parent of \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_  
(give consent/do not give consent) (Please tick) that the Tab. Albendazole Chewable  
provided by DGHS Delhi Govt. can be given to my child on 10.2.2020.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_



# Indian Academy of Pediatrics Delhi

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9810130122

**Dr Lalit Mendiratta**  
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**Dr Smita Mishra**  
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**ADVISORY FOR IAP DELHI:**

**NATIONAL DEWORMING DAY-10 February 2020**

(Mop-round date 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020)

A step towards the "Anemia Mukh Bharat"

**(A Program under National Nutrition Mission and National Health Mission)**

Dear Esteemed Member,

Greetings from Indian Academy of Pediatrics Delhi!

The Iron deficiency anemia (IDA) in children (1-19 years age group) is a significant public health problem in India, which varies in severity and may be associated with fatigue, weakness, dizziness, drowsiness and impaired cognitive development of children and increased morbidity. Nutritional deficiency and worm infestations have been identified as the twin causative factors of IDA, globally. The program 'Anemia Mukh Bharat' (under the National nutrition mission & National Health Mission) is an ambitious project to control the anemia by nutritional supplements. Additionally, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with Ministry of education & Ministry of Women and Child Development, has intensified efforts towards control of Soil transmitted Helminths (STH) in India, under which biannual mass deworming (albendazole chewable tablet-) for children and adolescents in the age groups between 1 and 19 years is carried out, on fixed -dates called as **National Deworming Day (NDD)**, at zero cost to the recipients.

**Doses and mode of administration of chewable tab Albendazole\*:**

Age	Albendazole (400mg chewable tablet)	Administration
1 -2 years	<b>Half tablet</b>	For young children the tablet should be broken and crushed (between two spoons) and then administered with water
2-19 years	<b>A full tablet</b>	During intake, children should chew the tablet and if required should consume some water. Clean drinking-water should be available.
*Ref: <a href="https://nhm.gov.in/images/pdf/NDD/Guidelines/NDD_Operational_Guidelines.pdf">https://nhm.gov.in/images/pdf/NDD/Guidelines/NDD_Operational_Guidelines.pdf</a>		

IAP Delhi has pledged full support for this campaign to Directorate of Family Welfare, Delhi Government and accordingly following advisory has been proposed to all Delhi IAP members.

They are requested to:

1. To **Encourage** parents, school authorities, teachers to participate in program wholeheartedly on National Deworming Day (10 and 16th Feb 2020).
2. To **Participate** in programs related to the information and awareness amongst the parents and children regarding the needs and benefits of deworming.

**Healthy Children-Pride of Nation**



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(Registered under Society Act S-29229 of 1996)



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Dr Deepak Gautam

3. To **Help** the program by **rebutting the rumors/misinformation/negative publicity** regarding the utility and safety of program. In view of this pledge they have to inform the public from all possible platforms, that Albendazole is one of the safest drugs which hardly get absorbed in circulation. Uncommonly, some side effects like vomiting or abdominal pain may be seen due to high untreated high burden of worms. Rarely, Albendazole may unmask the other hidden systemic symptoms of helminth's infestation.

4. **Any side effect or coincidental presentation of unrelated medical complaints:**

IAP Delhi requests all its members to provide MEDICAL AID on priority to these children.

Thanking you,

With Warm Regards

(Dr. R. K. Nabh)  
President, IAP Delhi

(Dr. Smita Mishra)  
Secretary, IAP Delhi

Copy for information:

1. Dr. Nutan Mundeja, Director Family Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi.
2. P S to Health Minister, Delhi Secretariat, Government of NCT of Delhi.
3. P S to Principal Secretary, Delhi Secretariat, I P Estate, Department of Health, Government of NCT of Delhi.

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**DIRECTORATE OF FAMILY WELFARE (GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI)**  
**‘B’ & ‘C’ WING, 7<sup>TH</sup> LEVEL, VIKAS BHAWAN-2**  
**CIVIL LINES, NEW DELHI- 110054**

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## **National Deworming Day**

### **10<sup>th</sup> February, 2020**

As per a survey conducted by National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) nearly 28% of children in Delhi were found to be infected with one or other type of intestinal worm. Intestinal worms significantly increase the risk of malnutrition including anemia among our population particularly in children & adolescents as these formative years are marked by accelerated growth & development.

The anemia prevalence in Delhi is in excess of 50% across most of the age groups which is a cause of serious concern and is threatening to turn what we consider our demographic dividend into a liability. It must be known to all that Anemia prevalence is high across the society irrespective of gender, age and socio-economic status.

With an aim to intensify efforts towards reducing the prevalence of Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH)/Intestinal worms, as a part of Anemia prevention and control strategy among the children and adolescents, National Deworming Day (NDD) campaign is conducted twice a year in Delhi since the year 2017.

As a part of the campaign, age appropriate dose of Tablet Albendazole is administered to the children in 1-19 year age-group through Anganwadi Centres and Schools (both Govt./aided and Unaided) across the State in a pulse mode. Drugs are administered by teachers and anganwadi workers that are trained before every round.

Coverage during the last six campaigns conducted in 2017, 2018 & 2019 may be seen as under:

<b>NDD Campaign</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Beneficiaries (1-19 year) administered Albendazole during the campaign</b>	<b>Coverage (%)</b>
February, 2017	38,87,437	31,21,586	80.30
August, 2017	37,28,688	29,24,094	76.20
February, 2018	36,89,648	29,77,998	80.71
August, 2018	38,86,911	30,54,892	78.60
February, 2019	43,50,000	31,50,611	72.42
August, 2019	45,40,261	35,15,107	77.42




Coverage in Private/Unaided schools has improved significantly during the last three (03) rounds as per the details as under:

NDD Campaign	Target	No. of students administered Albendazole during the campaign	Coverage (%)
August, 2018	200000	1,02,927	51.46
February, 2019	550000	2,85,337	51.87
August, 2019	700000	4,84,772	69.25

However, there remains a scope of improvement considering the fact that more than 15.0 lac children are enrolled in Unaided schools in Delhi. **School administration and Parents of children are requested to join this important public health initiative that is in greater interest of our children & adolescents.**

NDD Campaign has also received support from professional bodies like Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP), Delhi.



**Indian Academy of Pediatrics Delhi**

Dr R K Nishu President  
Dr Lalit Mendiratta President-Elect  
Dr Smrita Mishra Secretary  
Dr Manish Gupta Treasurer / Secy-Elect

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**ADVISORY FOR IAP DELHI: NATIONAL DEWORMING DAY-30 February 2020**  
(Mid-round date 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020)  
(A Program under National Nutrition Mission and National Health Mission)

Dear Esteemed Member,  
Greetings from Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) Delhi.

The iron deficiency anemia (IDA) in children (3-18 years age group) is a significant public health problem in India, which varies in severity and may be associated with fatigue, weakness, dizziness, drowsiness and impaired cognitive development of children and increased morbidity. Nutritional deficiencies and worm infestations have been identified as the two causative factors of IDA. Globally, the program 'Anemia Mukt Bharat' (under the National Nutrition Mission & National Health Mission) is an ambitious project to control the anemia by nutritional supplements. Additionally, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with Ministry of Education & Ministry of Women and Child Development, has intensified efforts towards control of soil transmitted helminths (STH) in India, under which biannual mass deworming (albendazole chewable tablet) for children and adolescents in the age groups between 3 and 18 years is carried out, on fixed dates called as **National Deworming Day (NDD)**, at zero cost to the recipients.

Times and mode of administration of chewable tablet (Albendazole):

Age	Albendazole (chewable tablets) tablet	Administration
3-12 years	Half tablet	For young children the tablet should be broken and crushed (between two spoons) and then administered with water.
13-18 years	A full tablet	During intake, children should chew the tablet and if required should consume some water. Clean drinking-water should be available.


<https://www.moh.gov.in/images/pdf/2020/02/17/202002170001.pdf>

IAP Delhi has pledged full support for this campaign to Directorate of Family Welfare, Delhi Government and accordingly following advisory has been proposed to all Delhi IAP members. They are requested to:

- To encourage parents, school authorities, teachers to participate in program wholeheartedly on National Deworming Day (15 and 18th Feb 2020).
- To participate in programs related to the information and awareness amongst the parents and children regarding the needs and benefits of deworming.

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(Organized under Section 301 of Delhi Act of 1967)



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- To help the program by rebutting the rumors/misinformation/negative publicity regarding the utility and safety of program. In view of this pledge they have to inform the public from all possible platforms, that Albendazole is one of the safest drugs which hardly get absorbed in circulation. Uncommonly, some side effects like vomiting or abdominal pain may be seen due to high untreated high burden of worms. Rarely, Albendazole may unmask the other hidden systemic symptoms of helminth's infestation.
- Any side effect or unrelated presentation of unrelated medical complaints: IAP Delhi requests all its members to provide MEDICAL AID as priority to these children.

Thanking you,

With Warm Regards

*Dr. R. K. Nishu*  
President, IAP Delhi

*Dr. Smrita Mishra*  
Secretary, IAP Delhi

Copy for information:

- Dr. Nutan Mundia, Director Family Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi.
- P.S to Health Minister, Delhi Secretariat, Government of NCT of Delhi.
- P.S to Principal Secretary, Delhi Secretariat, P. Secy, Department of Health, Government of NCT of Delhi.

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As a part of our commitment to a high quality NDD Program, Department of Health & Family Welfare ensures that the drugs being used are of standard quality.

Although Albendazole (the drug used for mass deworming) is considered safe, few adverse events such as nausea, vomiting, pain abdomen, fatigue, dizziness and in rare circumstances seizures may be reported. Most of these adverse events are mild and are transient in nature and are usually more pronounced in children harboring a higher worm load. Adverse events reported after administration of

Albendazole may also be coincidental arising out of existing co-morbid condition/s in the child. Prompt and appropriate medical care needs to be ensured accordingly.

To tackle any exigencies on De-worming & Mop-up Day, Emergency Response System (ERS) is being put in place by the Department. As a part of ERS, in addition to the public hospitals that remain open for 24 hours on all seven days of the week, all Delhi Govt. dispensaries remain open and on High Alert for extended hours from 8: 00 AM to 6: 00 PM on both the days. Nodal Officers at public Hospitals are identified to ensure minimum response time in case of any emergency. Besides, CATS ambulance services remain on high alert on the program days.

### **Key Message to Parents/School Administration**

- Administration of single, age appropriate dose of Tablet Albendazole to children is recommended by Govt. of India.
- Tablet Albendazole is safe and is used extensively across the globe for mass deworming.
- Tablet Albendazole used is of standard quality and is administered by trained teachers and anganwadi workers.
- Albendazole is not administered to acutely ill children/those on long term medications/ children with history of allergy associated with albendazole.
- Intestinal worms may cause malnutrition and Iron Deficiency Anemia. Albendazole helps children get rid of these parasitic intestinal worms.
- Parents and School administration are requested to come forward and ensure that all eligible children are administered Tablet Albendazole on National Deworming Day.

However, Administration of Albendazole during National Deworming Day is completely voluntary.

#### **What if a Child could not be administered Albendazole on National Deworming Day (due to illness, absenteeism or any other reason)?**

- Children who missed out on National Deworming Day (10<sup>th</sup> February, 2020) and are otherwise eligible for administration of Albendazole may be administered the drug on

**Mop Up Day -17<sup>th</sup> February, 2020**

**We appeal to all parents to make sure that their child is administered Albendazole on National Deworming Day and contribute in making Delhi a “Worm Free City”.**