



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
 REGION XI
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF DAVAO DE ORO



**Office of the Schools Division
 Superintendent**

August 2, 2024

Division Memorandum

No. 586, s. 2024

To: **GRINGO JOHN F. PELAEZ, MD** - Medical Officer III
PEPITO III T. VILLAREIZ, RN - Nurse II
GODFREE L. ESPERO, RN - Nurse II
MYLENE G. CAVA, RN - Nurse II
EVELYN G. AÑOBER, RN - Nurse II
GERRYPPHER M. VIERNES - Nurse II
ZENAIDA J. GRAN - Nurse II
EMILIA A. ZAMORA - Principal II, Mapawa Elementary School
GENALYN PERMAJIN - School Head, Tigbao Integrated School

Subject: **COLLECTION OF FRESH STOOL SAMPLE AMONG LEARNERS OF
 MAPAWA CES AND TIGBAO INTEGRATED SCHOOL**

1. Attached is the letter from Vicente Y. Belizario, Jr., MD, MTM&H, Project Leader and Former Dean of University of the Philippines Manila- College of Public Health dated July 15, 2024 re: Request for endorsement for collection of fresh stool examples in selected schools in Maragusan, Davao de Oro on August 26-30, 2024.
2. Anent to this, all above-mentioned personnel are hereby advised to monitor and facilitate the said activity.
3. In preparation of the said activity, you are all requested to attend the coordination meeting and ground visit on August 13, 2024, 1:00 PM.
4. Other details are contained in the enclosure.
5. Travelling and other incidental expenses incurred shall be charged against available local funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
6. Immediate and wide dissemination of this to concerned is desired.

CRISTY C. EPE
 Schools Division Superintendent



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COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA
SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines
Regional Centre for Public Health, Hospital Administration,
Environmental and Occupational Health



July 15, 2024

CRISTY C. EPE, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent
Division of Davao De Oro
Capitol Complex, Cabidanan, Nabunturan, Davao De Oro



ATTN: GRINGO JOHN F. PELAEZ, MD
Medical Officer III

PEPITO III T. VILLARREIZ, RN
Nurse II

MYLENE G. CAVA, RN
Nurse II

GODFREE L. ESPERO, RN
Nurse II

Dear Madam,

Re: Request for endorsement for collection of fresh stool samples in selected schools in Maragusan, Davao De Oro

The University of the Philippines (UP) Neglected Tropical Diseases Study Group (NTDSG) in collaboration with the Department of Health - Davao Center for Health Development is implementing a project entitled "A Machine Learning-Based Mobile Application and Cloud Platform to Enable Accurate and Streamlined Surveillance of Soil-Transmitted Helminth Infection and Schistosomiasis" (UP Manila Research Ethics Board Code 2021-0742-01), in collaboration with Parasite ID, Corp., USA and PATH, USA. The project aims to enhance surveillance of parasitic neglected tropical diseases in the country through the development of a mobile application that will utilize artificial intelligence for the detection and identification of parasite eggs.

To date, the project team has developed a well-trained AI powered application which is now ready for the next step that is the conduct of a feasibility study in a field setting. This step necessitates a pilot study that prepares the way for the full-blown feasibility study which is scheduled in November 2024. The proposed pilot study will generate data to compare conventional microscopy to the newly trained AI application and is proposed to be implemented in collaboration with the local government unit in Maragusan, Davao de Oro from **August 26-30, 2024**. The pilot study will involve collecting fresh stool samples, at least five (5) grams each, from children aged 9 to 17 years from the 1) Mapawa Elementary School and 2) Tigbao Integrated School in Maragusan for the said sample collection.

As such, we are respectfully requesting your endorsement to the school heads of the above-mentioned schools to facilitate collection of stool samples for our pilot feasibility study this coming **August 26-30, 2024**. We will ensure strict compliance to health and safety protocols in all activities, including minimizing contact with the participants, identifying designated drop-off points for stool samples, and the provision of personal protective equipment for all field personnel.

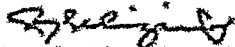
In preparation for the above-mentioned activity, we would also like to invite you and the following personnel to a coordination meeting and groundwork visit on **August 13, 2024, 1:00 PM**. We will be discussing the planned activities and logistical preparations needed for the upcoming parasitologic assessment and pilot study.

- 1) Gringo John Pelaez - Medical Officer III
- 2) Pepito III Villarreiz - Nurse II
- 3) Mylene Cava - Nurse II
- 4) Godfree Espero - Nurse II
- 5) Mapawa Elementary School Principal
- 6) Tigbao Integrated School Principal

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Rupert Stephen Charles S. Chua, Research Associate, at +639950894306, or through email at chuarupert@gmail.com.

Thank you, and we look forward to your favorable response to our request.

Best regards,



VICENTE Y. BELIZARIO, JR., MD, MTM&H
Project Leader and Former Dean