Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION III-CENTRAL LUZON

RMS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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OCT 18 2026

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
No. 395 s. 2026

2026 GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY CELEBRATION

Reproduction No. 60 s. 2026
For dissemination and compliance.
CECILIA E. VALDERAMA, PhD, CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent

To : Schools Division Superintendents
Chiefs, School Governance and Operations Division
Division and School WinS Coordinators
Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. The Department of Education Regional Office III, through the Education Support Services Division (ESSD) Health and Nutrition Section, joins the celebration of 2026 Global Handwashing Day with its multi-year theme, "Be a Handwashing Hero."

2. Celebrated every 15th of October, Global Handwashing Day is a global initiative that aims to raise awareness of the importance of handwashing with soap as a simple yet effective means of preventing diseases and saving lives. It also highlights the need to promote proper hand hygiene practices in schools, homes, and communities to help protect the health and well-being of learners and school personnel.

3. In this regard, all schools are enjoined to participate in the Simultaneous Handwashing Activity for all Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 7 learners on October 15, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Other grade levels are likewise encouraged to conduct a handwashing activity at a schedule to be determined by their respective schools.

4. The activity shall be properly documented by the class advisers. All photographs and other relevant documentation shall be submitted to the School WinS Coordinator, who shall be responsible for consolidating the submissions from all participating classes.

5. All schools are likewise encouraged to post documentation of their respective activities on their official Facebook pages using the hashtag #GlobalHandwashingDay2026 to raise awareness and promote wider participation in the celebration.

6. Immediate and widest dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

Address: Matalino St. D.M. Government Center, Maimpis, City of San Fernando (P)
Telephone Number: (045) 598-8580 to 89
Email Address: region3@deped.gov.ph

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION III-CENTRAL LUZON

TOLENTINO G. AQUINO
Regional Director

Encl.: As stated
References: None
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

WINS GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY

ESSD/health2
October 11, 2026

To send feedback regarding any of our services, kindly scan the QR Code.

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Republika ng Pilipinas

Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM
OM-OUGOPS-2026-01-04005

TO : **ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND BARMM EDUCATION MINISTER**
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
SCHOOL HEADS

FROM : **JOCELYN DR ANDAYA**
Assistant Secretary
Officer-in-Charge
Office of the Undersecretary for Governance and Operations

SUBJECT : **2026 GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY CELEBRATION**

DATE : October 4, 2026

The Department of Education (DepEd), through the Bureau of Learner Support Services – School Health Division – Nutrition and Hygiene Unit (BLSS-SHD-NHU), in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), will spearhead this year's celebration of **Global Handwashing Day** with its multi-year theme, ***"Be a Handwashing Hero."*** This global initiative is celebrated every 15th of October which aims to raise awareness about the significance of handwashing with soap as a simple yet effective means to prevent diseases and save lives.

The **DepEd Order 10, s. 2016 (DO 10, s. 2016)** or the **Policy and Guidelines for the Comprehensive Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Schools (WinS) Program**, aims to promote proper hygiene and sanitation practices, and advocates for creating a clean environment in and around schools, ensuring the safety and health of learners. DO 10, s. 2016 is designed to enhance learning and health outcomes while improving learners' attendance through a comprehensive, sustainable, and scalable school-based program for water, hygiene, sanitation, and deworming. This aligns with the State's mandate, as established in the 1987 Constitution, to uphold children's rights to adequate care and nutrition and to protect them from harmful conditions. Additionally, it seeks to promote public health and instill health consciousness within the community.

In this regard, all Regional, Division, and School WinS Coordinators as well as those who champion WASH across settings are requested to participate by tuning in at the broadcast of the event on **October 15, 2026 (Thursday)** from **10:30am to 12:00nn** via the **DepEd Philippines Facebook Page.**

The Regional Offices (ROs) and Schools Division Offices (SDOs) are enjoined to ensure and monitor the participation of personnel and learners to the said virtual program. Refer to **Annex A** for the program details.

Annex A

"Be a Handwashing Hero!"

15 October 2026 (Thursday) at 10:30 am - 12:00 nn

(A virtual program in support of the 2026 Global Handwashing Day celebration)

Indicative Program

Time	Duration	Session/Topic	Speaker
Preliminaries and Opening Program			
10:30-10:40 a.m.	10 mins	WinS Promotional Video	Playback Video Emcee
		Opening Remarks	**Dr. Miguel Angelo S. Mantaring** Director IV Bureau of Learner Support Services
		Message	**Roger B. Masapol** Assistant Secretary for Governance and Operations - Education Governance
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in the Lens of Public School System			
10:40-11:00 a.m.	20 mins	Sustaining the Gains of the Philippine WASH in Schools (WinS) program and Updates in the Handwashing Initiatives in the Public-School Setting	**Dr. Miguel Angelo S. Mantaring** Director IV Bureau of Learner Support Services
Clean Hands, Safer and Healthier Learning Institutions			
11:00-11:20 a.m.	20 mins	The New WHO Global Guidelines on Hand Hygiene: What do they mean to WASH in Schools (WinS) program in the Philippines	**Mr. Jon Michael Villaseñor** UNICEF WASH Officer
Nutrition and Hygiene Unite: #FortheWinS			
11:20-11:40 a.m.	20 mins	Linking Nutrition and Hygiene for Better Health	**Ms. Elmira Bacatan** UNICEF WASH Officer
Promoting WASH Behaviors in Schools Through Engaging Jingles			
11:40-11:50 a.m.	10 mins	Presentation of WASH Jingles of Selected Schools	Emcee AVP
Closing Program			
11:50–12:00 nn	10 mins	Pledge of Commitment Closing	ALL DepEd Regions and Central Office Emcee

Further, the DepEd Regional Offices are hereby requested to:

- select and submit one (1) 3- to 4-minute video presentation of your existing handwashing jingle or WinS-related jingle (Only 2-3 regional handwashing/WinS jingle shall be chosen to be broadcasted via the DepEd Philippines FB page);
- encourage Regional Office employees and officials to submit a short commitment video to show support to this year's global theme. For details, please see **Annex B** (Guidelines for recording the requested commitment video presentation of each region);
- conduct simultaneous handwashing among learners, teaching and non-teaching personnel, parents and other stakeholders. Schools shall designate a specific time to conduct the said activity in time for the celebration of Global Handwashing Day on October 15, 2026, ensuring that there would be no disruption of classes. If possible, the schools and/or the School Division Offices (SDOs) may broadcast the simultaneous handwashing activities in their respective Official Facebook Pages. The use of the following hashtags for this event is recommended: #2026GlobalHandwashingDay, #BeAHandwashingHero, #WASHinSchools, #ForTheWinS, #InDepEdWinSEverybodyWins; and
- cross-post the virtual broadcast of the event via DepEd Philippines FB Page.

While the 15th day of October every year is designated as the Global Handwashing Day, the public is encouraged to sustain the initiatives to achieve the objectives of the celebration throughout the year.

Kindly submit the handwashing/WinS Jingles and pledge of commitment video presentation to wins@deped.gov.ph on or before **October 9, 2026 (Friday)**.

For further details, **Ms. Magdalene Portia T. Cariaga**, Supervising Health Program Officer, **Mr. Vonerich B. Berba**, Education Program Specialist II, or **Mr. Dranoel Cyrus C. Baguio**, Technical Assistant II of BLSS-SHD, may be contacted at 8632-9935 or email at wins@deped.gov.ph or blss.shd@deped.gov.ph. Attached is the Concept Note for ready reference.

Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.