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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION III
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BULACAN

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 521, s. 2026

November 17, 2026

OBSERVANCE OF THE 2026 WORLD AIDS DAY

Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Education Program Supervisors
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
School Health and Nutrition Personnel
All Others Concerned

1. In line with the annual observance of **World AIDS Day on December 1, 2026**, all public elementary and secondary schools in the Schools Division of Bulacan are encouraged to participate in the celebration with the global theme **"Ending AIDS Starts with Access."**
2. This year's theme highlights the importance of ensuring equitable access to accurate HIV and AIDS information, prevention education, voluntary testing, treatment, care, and support services. It also emphasizes the need to eliminate stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV and promote a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for everyone.
3. The celebration aims to:
   a. Increase awareness and understanding of HIV and AIDS among learners and school personnel;
   b. Promote accurate, age-appropriate, and evidence-based information on HIV prevention, transmission, testing, treatment, and care;
   c. Encourage responsible health-seeking behaviors and awareness of available HIV-related health services;
   d. Promote respect, compassion, inclusivity, and non-discrimination toward people living with HIV; and
   e. Strengthen the role of schools in providing a safe and supportive learning environment through health education and advocacy.
4. In support of the celebration, schools are encouraged to conduct simple, meaningful, and age-appropriate activities, such as:
   a. Integration of HIV and AIDS awareness messages in appropriate classroom discussions and learning activities;

b. Conduct of information and education campaigns through posters, infographics, bulletin boards, and official school social media platforms;
c. Wearing of red ribbons or other symbolic activities to demonstrate solidarity and support for people living with HIV;
d. Conduct of short awareness sessions, discussions, or health information drives for learners and school personnel, in coordination with qualified health professionals and partner agencies, when available; and
e. Dissemination of verified information on HIV prevention, voluntary testing, treatment, and available health services.

5. All activities shall be undertaken in accordance with **DepEd Order No. 009, s. 2026, or the Guidelines on the Implementation of the Three-Term School Calendar in Basic Education.** Schools shall ensure that the observance is appropriately scheduled and integrated into existing school programs and activities, without compromising instructional time or disrupting the delivery of learning competencies. Activities shall be simple, cost-effective, and manageable, and shall not impose unnecessary additional workload on teachers or require learners and personnel to participate in activities that interfere with their regular responsibilities.
6. All concerned shall observe strict confidentiality, respect for privacy, and the principles of non-discrimination in all HIV-related activities. No learner or personnel shall be required to disclose their HIV status, undergo HIV testing, or participate in any activity against their will. Any HIV testing or related health service shall be voluntary and facilitated only by authorized health service providers in accordance with applicable laws and policies.
7. The School Health and Nutrition personnel, in coordination with school heads, shall facilitate and monitor the implementation of appropriate activities. Schools are encouraged to coordinate with their respective local government units, health offices, and other relevant partner agencies to strengthen information dissemination and access to appropriate health services.
8. Schools shall disseminate advocacy materials and support to the program through official school and Division communication platforms with any of the following hashtag #SDOBulacanWorldAIDSDay2026,
#EndingAIDSStartsWithAccessatSDOBulacan
#DepEdBulacanHealthySchoolsHealthyLearners

9. Schools shall document their activities through a brief narrative report and selected photographs, ensuring that the privacy and dignity of all participants are protected. The consolidated report shall be submitted to the School Health and Nutrition Section through their designated nurses on or before December 5, 2026.
10. Immediate dissemination of and appropriate action on this Memorandum are desired.

CECILIA E. VALDERAMA, PhD, CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent