

**Uttar Pradesh to Implement the National Deworming Day on February 10, 2018 to Tackle Threat of Worm Infection in Children**

**Lucknow: February 08, 2018**

Intestinal worm infection in children is a serious public health threat. Prevalence among children aged 1- 19 years in Uttar Pradesh is around 76%. Worm infection in children occurs due to contaminated soil and lack of personal hygiene. Worm infection can have significant impact on the health and overall well-being of children. It also negatively impacts their haemoglobin level and school attendance. Health, education and ICDS departments are making continuous efforts to ensure overall development of children. So, a collective effort in this direction is required by both public and government departments to deworm the children.

This information has been given by A.M.D. Mr. Nikhil Chandra Shukla at SPMU meeting hall of NHM Office today in press conference. He told, According to World Health Organization (WHO), soil transmitted helminths (STHs) eat all the necessary nutrients due to which children become anaemic and malnourished. Excess worm infection makes children tired and weak and in long run this hampers their educational outcomes and work efficiency. School and anganwadi based deworming program is a safe, cost effective and evidence based globally accepted practice through which millions of children are being dewormed.

Teachers in schools and Anganwadi workers at anganwadi centers will administer Albendazole tablet (400 mg) to the children. National Deworming Day (NDD) on 10<sup>th</sup> February is providing a good platform to children aged 1-19 years in Uttar Pradesh for deworming. So far, 4 rounds of NDD have been successfully implemented in the state.

In the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> round of NDD in Uttar Pradesh on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 28 districts (Agra, Aligarh, Amroha, Badaun, Baghpat, Bijnor, Bulandshahar, Chandauli, Etah, Etawah, Firozabad, G B Nagar, Ghaziabad, Hapur, Hathras, Jhansi, Kasganj, Kaushambi, Lalitpur, Mainpuri, Mathura, Meerut, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Rampur, Saharanpur, Sambhal, Shamli) have been identified and 2.42 Crore children are being targeted for deworming. Children in remaining 47 districts will be administered through Lymphatic Filariasis (LF Mass Drug Administration). Any child not dewormed on NDD due to absenteeism or sickness will be dewormed on mop-up day, February 15, 2018.

Side effects from consuming Albendazole are mild and can include nausea, vomiting, and dizziness, especially in children with high worm loads. These are not serious effects and generally do not require special medical attention. In line with the guidance from MoHFW comprehensive adverse event protocols have been put in place and all appropriate officials at all levels have been trained.

National Deworming Day is a pan India school and anganwadi based deworming program for which state level execution is being coordinated by ICDS, Basic and Secondary education and Panchayati Raj departments.

To ensure success on NDD, officials at block and district levels from Health, education and ICDS departments have been trained and they will monitor the program as well. In addition to this, 28 teams will be sent from the state to monitor the coverage of program.

With the help of partner organization, Evidence Action, 125 independent surveyors and 28 district coordinators are also being deployed to observe and monitor the program.

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Tr: Dinesh Kumar/Amit Shukla