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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION X – NORTHERN MINDANAO
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF OZAMIZ CITY

DepEd Ozamiz City
RELEASED
By:
Date: 9/29/26

September 22, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 467 **s. 2026**

WEARING OF FACE MASKS AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE AGAINST HAZE AND AIR POLLUTION

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors (SGOD and CID)
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
Identified Teacher-Participants
This Division

1. In view of the observed haze and deteriorating air-quality conditions affecting parts of Mindanao, this Office reiterates the need for precautionary measures to protect the health and well-being of learners, teaching and non-teaching personnel, and other members of the school community.

2. All schools are encouraged to observe the following precautionary measures whenever haze or visibly poor air quality is present in their respective areas:

a. Encourage the wearing of appropriate face masks, particularly by learners and personnel who need to be outdoors or who are exposed to haze. Health authorities have recommended well-fitting N95 masks for protection against airborne particles when outdoor exposure is necessary.

b. Minimize prolonged or strenuous outdoor activities during periods when haze or poor air quality is observed. Schools may consider moving appropriate activities indoors or adjusting schedules, subject to prevailing conditions and official advisories.

c. Give particular consideration to young children and individuals with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions, who may be more vulnerable to the effects of poor air quality.

d. Ensure that classrooms and other learning spaces are kept clean, adequately ventilated when conditions permit, and free from additional sources of air pollution, such as smoke from burning materials.

e. Remind learners and personnel to stay hydrated and to immediately inform parents/guardians, teachers, or school authorities if they experience difficulty breathing, persistent coughing, eye irritation, dizziness, or other unusual symptoms.

f. Avoid unnecessary outdoor exposure whenever official air-quality advisories indicate unhealthy conditions.

3. School Heads shall exercise appropriate judgment in managing outdoor school activities based on actual local conditions and official advisories from competent authorities. Where necessary, outdoor physical activities, assemblies, or other

activities involving prolonged exposure may be modified, or conducted in safer settings.

4. Schools are further encouraged to regularly monitor official air-quality information and advisories from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources–Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), Department of Health (DOH), local government authorities, and other concerned agencies.

5. The wearing of face masks under this Memorandum shall be treated as a precautionary health measure during periods of haze or poor air quality and shall be implemented with consideration for the age, health condition, comfort, and individual circumstances of learners and personnel.

6. School personnel are reminded to provide learners with clear, age-appropriate, and reassuring information about haze and air pollution. Schools shall avoid causing unnecessary fear or alarm and shall emphasize practical measures that learners can undertake to protect themselves.

7. The cooperation of all school heads, teachers, non-teaching personnel, learners, parents/guardians, and other stakeholders is enjoined to ensure the protection of the school community from potential health effects associated with haze and air pollution.

8. Queries can be channeled to Sathur Lucky C. Escuadro, PDO II (DRRM).

9. This Office directs the immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum.

DIONESIO L. LIWAGON, JR., CESO VI
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
OIC, Schools Division Superintendent

Encl., As stated
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects :

HAZE DRRM AIR POLLUTION HEALTH

SLCE/ACV/ DM Wearing of Face Masks as a Precautionary Measure against Haze and Air Pollution
September 22, 2026