

# Conducting a school deworming day

An illustration depicting a school deworming day. In the foreground, a young boy in a white shirt and blue shorts is smiling and holding out three yellow pills in his palm. He is also holding a glass of water. A woman, likely a teacher or health worker, wearing a purple patterned headscarf and a purple top, is smiling back at him while holding a clipboard and a pen. In the background, other children in school uniforms are running and playing outside a school building with a corrugated metal roof. A large, bright sun is visible in the upper left corner.

A manual for teachers



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**A step-by-step  
guide for teachers  
on how to  
conduct a school  
deworming day!**

## **What are intestinal worm infections?**

Intestinal worms are parasites that live in the human intestines or in the veins around the bladder. These worms are transmitted by eggs excreted in human faeces or urine, which contaminate the soil or water sources in areas that lack adequate sanitation. The worms consume part of the nutrients and vitamins that children ingest.

## **Why do children need deworming?**

Children are most vulnerable to worm infections, as their immune system is not yet fully developed. Untreated worm infections prevent children's healthy growth, cause poor nutrition and reduce their capacity to concentrate and learn.

The treatment is simple, safe, effective and free of charge. A single dose of deworming treatment drastically reduces the number of worms in each child.

Regular treatment contributes to good health and nutrition for children of school age, which in turn leads to increased enrolment and attendance, reduced class repetition and better educational attainment.

Children need these deworming medicines to grow healthier and learn better in school.

As a teacher, you can play an important role in ensuring that every child in your class takes the appropriate dosage of medicine.



## Teach children how to prevent infections:

- ▶ Always use a toilet or latrine. This will prevent faeces from contaminating the soil.
- ▶ Always wash hands with soap after using the latrine, and keep hands clean.
- ▶ Wash fruits and vegetables with clean water.
- ▶ Always wear shoes, and avoid walking barefoot in rivers, dams or rice fields.
- ▶ Take deworming tablets at least once a year.

If you would like to learn more about the diseases:

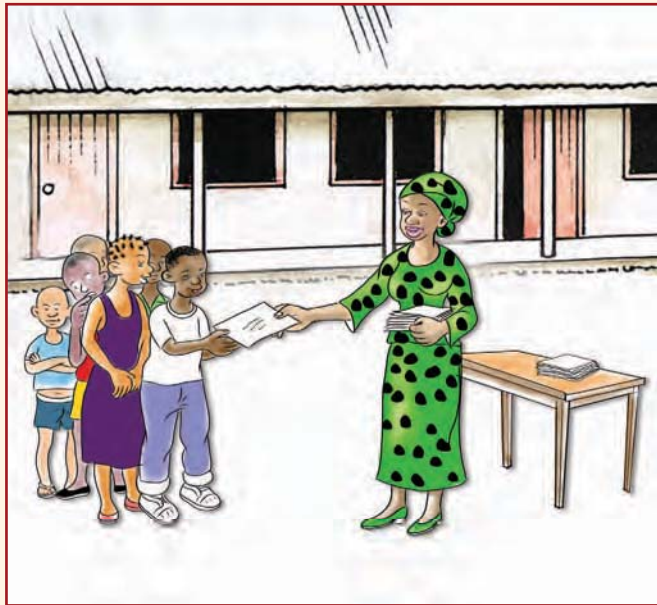
[www.who.int/neglected\\_diseases/diseases/en/](http://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/diseases/en/)

## Before deworming day

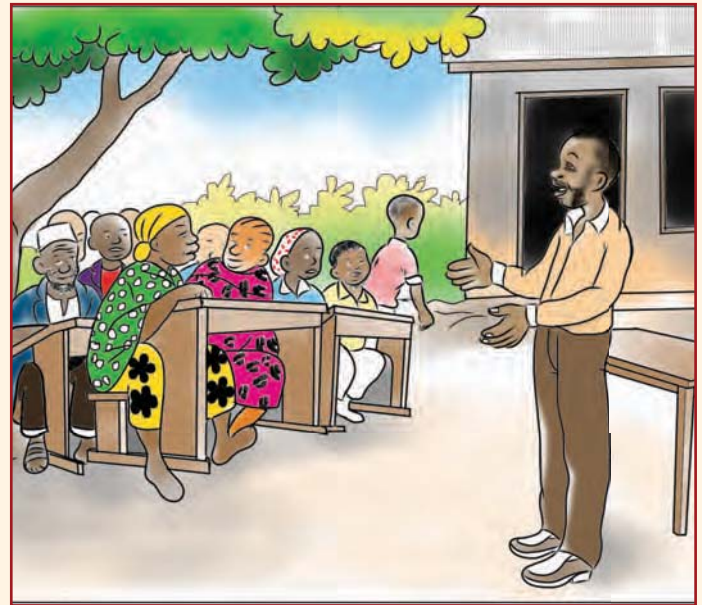
1. All children without other illness should be treated during a school deworming day.
2. Therefore, it is important to mobilize parents and the community to ensure that children attend school and participate on that day.
3. Teachers must inform parents of the importance of deworming so that parental consent to treat their children is obtained before the deworming day.
4. The best way to inform parents is to organize a group meeting. When this is not possible, you should ask pupils to hand a notification letter to their parents. In some communities, parental agreement is required before a child is given any deworming treatment.
5. Two examples of notifications are given in Annex I. Choose one of the two examples and modify the text as appropriate for distribution.
6. Remember that the purpose of a school deworming day is to ensure that all school-age children are treated. You can therefore tell the children in your class to bring siblings and friends of school age with them, even if they are not enrolled in school.



Send a notification letter home with children



Organize a group meeting with parents



# Materials needed for a school deworming day

To treat children against intestinal worms you need:

- ▶ Albendazole or mebendazole: the two medicines have the same effect. You should distribute either albendazole or mebendazole, not both.
- ▶ Praziquantel with a 'dose pole' to define the dose of praziquantel per child: each child must be given the correct number of tablets according to his or her height.
- ▶ Drinking-water and cups.
- ▶ Distribution form to register the children who are treated (Annex 2).
- ▶ Reactions should be recorded on the form in Annex 3.