



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

April 19, 2021

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR

No. 2021 – 0153

TO: ALL UNDERSECRETARIES AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; DIRECTORS OF BUREAUS AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF HEALTH-BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO; EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF SPECIALTY HOSPITALS AND THE NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS, HOSPITALS, INSTITUTES, SANITARIA AND INFIRMARIES; PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION; AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: Observance of World Thyroid Day and International Thyroid Awareness Week


The Department of Health (DOH), together with its partners, namely: Iodine Global Network (IGN), Philippine Society of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism (PSEDM), Philippine Thyroid Association (PTA), Philippine Society of Nuclear Medicine (PSNM), Philippine Society of General Surgeons (PSGS), Philippine Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (PSO-HNS), Philippine College of Occupational Medicine (PCOM), Philippine Academy of Physicians in School Health, Inc. (PAPSHI), Philippine Academy of Family Physicians (PAFP) and patient organizations, will be celebrating the World Thyroid Day on March 25, 2021 and the International Thyroid Awareness Week on May 24 to 30, 2021.

In view of the aforementioned, there will be a week-long webinar lecture series which will be streamed live on Facebook. All interested participants can register for free and can join on **Official Time**.

Attached is the list of activities and event details for your ready reference.

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:


MARIO C. VILLAVERDE, MD, MPH, MPM, CESO I
Undersecretary of Health
Health Policy and Systems Development Team

CONCEPT NOTE
2021 INTERNATIONAL THYROID AWARENESS WEEK
May 24 to 30 2021

Theme: “Mother-Baby-Iodine: The Importance of Iodine on the Woman and her Baby”

I. RATIONALE

Non-communicable diseases are not only limited to cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, but also include neglected diseases like thyroid disorders relative to iodine deficiency. According to 2018 National Nutrition Survey, iodine deficiency still exists among elderly, lactating mothers and pregnant women. The extent and consequences of iodine deficiency disorders on women of reproductive age, especially pregnant and lactating mothers, are known to affect children during their first 1000 days of life from conception.

Hence, iodine deficiency and thyroid disorders are recognized as public health threats that must be addressed by a comprehensive national health program. When left untreated, iodine deficiency and thyroid disorders are associated with negative health outcomes that include goiter, thyroid cancer, mental deficiency, physical deformities, congenital hypothyroidism and reproductive failure. It is in this light that International Thyroid Awareness Week (ITAW) is celebrated annually every 4th week of May as declared by the 11th European Congress of Endocrinology in April 2009.

This year’s theme is “*Mother-Baby-Iodine: The Importance of Iodine on the Woman and her Baby*”. The Department of Health (DOH), together with various specialty societies, will conduct a week-long webinar lecture series to promote disease awareness specifically on iodine deficiency and thyroid disorders in women and children.

II. OBJECTIVES

This event aims to:

- a. Provide an overview on the epidemiology of iodine deficiency and thyroid disorders in women and children
- b. Present the the core strategies on prevention and control of these disorders;
- c. Promote disease awareness specifically on iodine deficiency and thyroid disorders

III. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- a. Heightened awareness on iodine deficiency and thyroid disorders among the general public
- b. Increased multisectoral collaboration or networking in the prevention and control of iodine deficiency and thyroid disorders

IV. STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

STAKEHOLDERS	ROLES
WHO, FNRI, NNC, DepEd and experts on thyroid disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the week-long webinar lecture series
DOH-Disease Prevention and Control Bureau-Cancer Control Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide administrative assistance in the conduct of week-long webinar lecture series
DOH-Health Promotion Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop social media card to promote the week-long activities in various DOH platforms

V. METHODOLOGY

- a. Presentation
- b. Lay Forum

VI. PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES


DATE AND VENUE	May 24-28, 2021 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm Virtual (link to follow)	
Category of Participants	Officials and technical staff from DOH-CO, CHDs, and attached agencies, selected Medical Center Chiefs II, PHOs/MHOs/CHOs, clinicians, experts, local chief executives and officials, salt producers and traders, nurses, patients and lay people	
Total Pax: 150-300	Male: <i>TBD</i>	Female: <i>TBD</i>
Support Staff	DOH-CO DPCB and HPB	
Resource Persons	FNRI, NNC and Thyroid Experts	
Proposed Budget	None (virtual)	
Fund Source	N/A	

VII. PROGRAM


Date/Time	Topic	Speaker
May 24 (Mon) 12nn-1pm	<i>The Thyroid Disorder as an Important Non-Communicable Disease Impacting on Global Health (20 min)</i>	World Health Organization
5 min – Introduction 40 min – Lectures 15 min – Open Forum	<i>Key Messages and Updates on the National Thyroid Prevention and Control Program (20 min)</i>	Department of Health

<p>May 25 (Tue) 12nn-1pm</p> <p>5 min – Introduction 45 min – Lectures 10 min – Open Forum</p>	<p><i>The Scourge of Iodine Deficiency on the Woman & her Child (15min)</i></p> <p><i>The National Nutrition Survey Result on Pregnant and Lactating Mother (15min)</i></p> <p><i>The National Salt Iodization Program: Has it Made a Difference in the Health Outcomes of Women & Children? (15min)</i></p>	<p>Iodine Global Network (IGN)</p> <p>Food and Nutrition Research Institute</p> <p>National Nutrition Council</p>
<p>May 26 (Wed) 12nn-pm</p> <p>5 min – Introduction 45 min – Lectures 10 min – Open Forum</p>	<p><i>Looking Beyond the Usual Obstetrical Needs of the Pregnant Women (15min)</i></p> <p><i>Brain Development within the First 1000 Days of a Child's Life when Vital Nutrients are Overlooked / Missing (15min)</i></p> <p><i>Newborn Screening for Congenital Hypothyroidism: Have We Picked Them Up? (15min)</i></p>	<p>Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society</p> <p>Philippine Neurological Association</p> <p>Philippine Pediatric Society</p>
<p>May 27 (Thurs) 12nn-1pm</p> <p>5 min – Introduction 45 min – Lectures 10 min – Open Forum</p>	<p><i>Impact of Thyroid Disorder in the Students' Academic Performance (15min)</i></p> <p><i>Optimizing the Educational Performance & Future Productivity of a Child Born with Mental Challenges (15min)</i></p> <p><i>The Need for Thyroid Disorder Prevention and Control Policy in the Workplace (15min)</i></p>	<p>Philippine Pediatric Society</p> <p>Department of Education</p> <p>Philippine College of Occupational Medicine</p>
<p>May 28 (Fri) 12nn- 1pm</p> <p>5 min – Introduction 40 min – Lectures 15 min – Open Forum</p>	<p><i>Early Detection, Prompt Referral and Management of Thyroid Disorders (20min)</i></p> <p><i>Lay forum on Iodine Deficiency and Effect on Pregnant Mother and Her Baby (20min)</i></p> <p>Closing and Next Steps</p>	<p>Philippine Society of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism</p> <p>Philippine Thyroid Association</p> <p>Philippine Thyroid Association</p>

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