CIRCULAR

Sub: Celebration of Global Handwash Day

Please find enclosed herewith the letters received from Addl. Director, School Health Scheme and Joint Secretary, MHRD on the subject mentioned above.

Global Handwashing Day will be celebrated in all Govt./Govt. aided schools on 15th Oct 2011/ next working day (in case 15th is a holiday). All HOSs are instructed to conduct Special Assembly & organize Oath Taking Ceremony (oath enclosed) for the students & staff. They should also emphasize on the habits of cleanliness and hand washing for prevention of infection and various diseases like diarrhoea etc. They should also organize various activities to convey the message of Global Hand Washing Day.

The launch function of Global Hand Washing Day will be organised in the presence of Hon’ble Chief Minister of Delhi at Delhi Secretariat on 14th Oct 2011 at 3.30 p.m.

All District DDEs/District Nodal Officers & Zonal Co-ordinators (CNSY) are instructed to attend the function at Delhi Secretariat punctually.

( DR. (MRS.) SUNITA KAUSHIK )
ADDL. DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION (SCHOOL)

All HOSs through Del-E

Encl:- As above

No. DE.23(62)/Sch.Br./ Dated: 13/10/11

Copy to:-
1. PS to Pr. Secretary(Education)
2. PS to Director(Education)
3. All RDEs
4. All DDEs(District)/EOs/DEOs
5. OS(IT) to please paste it on the website
6. Guard File

( KUM KUM LAMBA )
ADE (SCHOOL)
The Global hand wash day is being commemorated on 15th Oct 2011. To take this programme forward, important interventions are to be undertaken by the Education Deptt. They are listed below for your urgent consideration and implementation.

The launch function of Global hand wash day will be commemorated at Delhi Secretariat on 14th Oct 2011 at 6pm (eve of Global Hand wash day). Hon’ble Chief Minister with Cabinet colleagues shall be taking oath at this function. This will be followed by similar oath taking ceremony by the students in the assembles of Delhi Govt. and aided schools on the next working day.

Responsibilities of School authorities

2. Saraswati Vandana by the selected students in the launch function.
3. Nodal teacher to organize oath taking ceremony by the students in the assembly on next working day.
4. An address by the Nodal teacher on advantages of hygiene & hand washing.
5. Display of posters in school premises for Dissemination of Health Messages regarding hygiene and hand washing. Posters shall be provided by SHS.

Hope you will look into the issues urgently.

[Signature]

Dr. J.P. Kapoor
Addl. Director (SHS)

Copy to:

2. PO to Director, Health and Family Welfare, Deptt of Health
3. Guard File.
Details of Programme on 14th Oct-2011

a) Assembly of all VIPs & guests
b) Vandana – By School Students
c) Welcome Address- Dr. N.V. Kamat, Director, Directorate of Health Services
d) Screening of Film on “Hand Washing Technique”
e) Address by
   - By Hon’ble Health Minister, Dr. A.K. Walia
f) Oath taking ceremony
   - By Hon’ble Chief Minister, Mrs. Sheila Dixit

Key note address
   - By Hon’ble Chief Minister, Mrs. Sheila Dixit

g) Vote of Thanks
   - By Dr. J.P. Kapoor, Addl. Director (School Health Scheme)

h) National Anthem – ‘Jan Gan Man’ by School Students
Role of Education Department:

1. Invitation to all DDEs, District Nodal officers and Zonal Coordinators to attend function.

2. Deputation of 20-25 Students from different schools (From 9th & 11th Class)
   - For oath taking ceremony on Global hand washing day by teachers & students
   
   - Vandana by School Students
संकल्प

मैं आफत लेता/लेती हूं कि मैं खाना खाने से पहले और बाथरूम से लौटने के बाद हर बार अपने हाथ अच्छी तरह साबुन से धोऊंगा/धोऊंगी। इसी तरह हाथ गंदे होने पर भी ऐसा करूंगा/करूंगी। हाथ धोने को अपनी आदत बनाऊंगा/बनाऊंगी, क्योंकि ऐसा करने से बीमारियां दूर रहती हैं।
Sub: Request for vigorous celebration for Global Handwashing Day, in collaboration with UNICEF, in all the schools in your state/UT.

Dear Colleague,

Handwashing with soap, as you are aware, is the most effective and inexpensive way to prevent diarrhea, which is responsible for deaths of millions of children in developing countries every year. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are over 2.2 million deaths due to diarrheal infections annually. In addition, diarrhoea is an important cause of malnutrition in children, resulting in reduced intake of food as well as reduced absorption of nutrients.

Epidemiological evidence shows that the most important risk factors are behaviours that encourage human contact with fecal matter, including improper disposal of faeces, lack of hand washing before food and after defecation or handling faeces. There is, therefore, a need to increase people’s understanding of the link between proper hand washing with soap and prevention of diarrhea. This will require persistent effort at your level, as people’s habit of not washing hands with soap is deeply entrenched.

Schools are a good place for children to learn the behavior of handwashing with soap before eating. Mid-Day Meal (MDM), which is served to nearly 120 million children in 1.12 million primary and middle schools in the country, provides an excellent opportunity to influence hygiene practices of children, particularly hand washing with soap. These practices, once learnt at school, can be inculcated into the household practice of handwashing before eating. A study carried out in a sample of the schools where mid-day meal is served shows that about 42% children are aware about the need for hand washing with soap while only 12% of the schools have soap available. This is despite the fact that MDM guidelines vide MHRD circular number F.1-15/2009-Desk(MDM) of 21st June 2010 (copy enclosed for ready reference), clearly list soap as an admissible item of expenditure to facilitate handwashing with soap before and after eating Mid-Day Meal (MDM).
To mainstream the practice of hand washing with soap amongst children, Global Hand washing Day is celebrated on October 15, every year since 2008, in schools and Anganwadis. It provides a unique opportunity to generate mass awareness on the issue and mobilize children and others to adopt hand washing practices. This year too, the celebration will remain centred around schools and anganwadi children, allowing us to build on the success of the previous years.

Global Handwashing Day has also been included as an integral part of the “SwatchhataUtsav” campaign to be launched by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. Department of Education, PHED, Rural Development Department and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and other nodal departments are collaborating with UNICEF for preparing a month long SwatchhataUtsav campaign, while integrating hand washing in schools and anganwadis as an essential component of the village level activities, such as advocacy and media events, school based activities and follow up plans.

There will be a national level function on the 15th October in convergence with the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Education and Rural Development. I am to request you to hold similar State level functions in your State in collaboration with UNICEF and the concerned Departments to spread the message of ‘hand wash with soap’. UNICEF is preparing a Campaign Kit for the children, which could also be shared during the function. Similarly, all efforts may be made to make soap available in the schools for hand wash with soap before and after Mid Day Meal. This will go a long way in creating greater awareness and reducing diarrhea related mortality and morbidity.

Looking forward to your support in this noble mission.

Best regards

33. Shri Rakesh Mohan
Principal Secretary,
Govt. of NCT Delhi
Education Department,
Old Secretariat,
Delhi - 110 054.

All Secretaries of Education looking after MDMS
All Directors MDMS