



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

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CIRCULAR NO : 15 OF 2015

FROM : THE OFFICE OF THE ACTING HOD

TO :

- THE OFFICE OF THE MEC**
- ALL DDGS**
- ALL CHIEF DIRECTORS**
- ALL DIRECTORS – HEAD OFFICE**
- ALL DISTRICT DIRECTORS**
- ALL CES: HRD AND LABOUR RELATIONS**
- ALL WELLNESS COORDINATORS**
- ORGANISED LABOUR**

SUBJECT : 2015 SURVEY ON HIV PREVALENCE AMONGST EDUCATORS

DATE : 10 JULY 2015

1. PURPOSE OF THIS CIRCULAR

This circular seeks to apprise the Officials in the Department of Education and the Social Partners of the Department of Basic Education's (DBE) intention to conduct a survey to determine the prevalence of HIV, AIDS and TB among educators in the Country generally and in the Eastern Cape in particular. It also seeks to alert these officials of the role they are expected to play in order to ensure that the survey is a success.

2. BACKGROUND

In 2005 the ELRC commissioned the Human Science Research Council (HSRC) to undertake the first-ever comprehensive study on factors determining educator supply and demand in South African public schools on behalf of the (then) Department of Education, South African Council for Educators (SACE) and three national teacher unions (SADTU, NAPTOSA & SAOU). Based on the study, HSRC published a report titled "The Health of Our Educators" that highlighted the following key findings among educators:

- HIV prevalence was 12.7% (i.e. lower than in the general population);
- AIDS morbidity was found to be high;
- There were high levels of absenteeism due to HIV-related illnesses; and



- More importantly, the study identified some hotspots which had high HIV prevalence (>20%) that were located mainly in KZN, EC and MP provinces.

In 2013, the DBE secured part funding from the Global Fund through the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) to conduct a follow-up study to the 2004/5 ELRC/Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) study on HIV prevalence amongst educators. HSRC has again been contracted to conduct the study.

This follow-up study will be conducted simultaneously in all Provinces during July 2015, as soon as schools open.

The participants of the study will be all educators in the sampled schools teaching from Grades R to 12 who are working full-time or part-time and are employed by the state or by the school governing bodies in the public education schooling system.

3. RATIONALE

The DBE is an important stakeholder in the integrated multi-sectoral response to HIV in the country as directed by the National Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs and TB, 2012-2016 (NSP). In addition, the basic education sector is the largest employer of public servants and thus a critical stakeholder in addressing HIV in the civil service.

The HIV prevalence study responds to the indicator on educator well-being in the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the DBE Integrated Strategy on HIV, STIs and TB, 2012-2016. The proposed survey will determine the changes that have occurred in the HIV epidemic since the last survey, and also determine the impact of HIV and TB interventions which are directed towards educators.

4. STUDY GOALS

The main goals of the study are to:

- estimate the prevalence and incidence of HIV amongst public school educators;
- estimate the number of educators and school based officials (principal, vice principal and Heads of Departments) already receiving Anti-retroviral (ARVs);
- assess the relationship between behavioural factors and HIV infection amongst educators in SA;
- compare HIV prevalence, and risk behaviour amongst public school educators in SA over the period 2005 to 2011;
- assess the type and frequency of exposure to HIV prevention, treatment and care and support programmes and the impact of these programmes amongst public educators in SA; and
- assess the type and frequency of exposure to major national behaviour change communication (BCC) programmes and assess the relationship between these programmes and HIV prevention, AIDS treatment, care and support and knowledge of and attitude towards tuberculosis (TB).

5. STUDY METHODOLOGY

A total sample 4771 participants across 404 schools are from the Eastern Cape Department of Education. This figure (4771) is inclusive of:-

- educators teaching from Grades R to 12 who are working full-time or part-time, employed by the state or by school governing bodies in the public education schooling system;

- All administrative and support staff in the schools mentioned above.

The list of sampled schools is attached herewith for ease of reference.

A Questionnaire will be used for data collection. The Questionnaire modules will include demographic characteristics; teaching responsibilities and workload; morale and job satisfaction; HIV/AIDS and TB knowledge; sexual behaviour; stigma against HIV and TB; violence within institutions and exposure to HIV and TB programmes.

A finger will be pricked to collect dried blood spots (DBS). Biomarkers will be tested in SANAS-accredited laboratory for:-

- HIV status and HIV incidence (DBS)
- Antiretroviral (ARV) drugs (DBS)

6. THE ROLE OF THE EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The success of this study depends on cooperation among the officials of the Department of the Department of Education. In particular, the support of the District Directors, CESs: HRD and Labour Relations, Circuit Managers, Wellness Coordinators, Organised Labour and Principals of schools in the entire study cannot be over emphasised. Specific areas in which the leadership, guidance and support of these officials is needed include, but may not be limited to the following:-

- Providing support to the entire study;
- Mobilising schools and educators to participate in the study;
- Providing support to the project team and field teams to access schools for the purpose of the study;
- Liaise with Provincial Steering Committee Member on all matters concerning the study
- Flexibility in arranging suitable times for data collection in the schools bearing in mind the unique needs of educators in specific schools e.g common transport needs.

The HSRC has specifically requested the Department to give permission for the survey to take place during school hours as it did in 2005.

CONCLUSION.

The finer details of the survey especially with regards to the exact dates and times on which the survey will take place in the various schools will be communicated in due course.

Ms YF Bomela is the Departments representative in the National Steering Committee for this survey. For any queries kindly contact her on 040-6084382 / 0833244286.

Yours for quality education.


R Tywakadi
ACTING SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL