



**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR: SCHOOL HEALTH, SAFETY AND LEARNER ENRICHMENT**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO : DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
CESs – CURRICULUM, ESSS, IMS&G  
CMC HEADS  
CIRCUIT MANAGEMENT  
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES  
EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS**

**CC : OFFICE OF THE HoD  
OFFICES OF DDGs – CM&D AND IOM  
CLUSTER CHIEF DIRECTORS  
CHIEF DIRECTORS – LD&SSS AND RSA  
DIRECTOR – SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

**FROM : THE DIRECTOR – SCHOOL HEALTH, SAFETY AND LEARNER  
ENRICHMENT**

**SUBJECT : ALERT TO DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS ON THE OUTBREAK OF  
HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE**

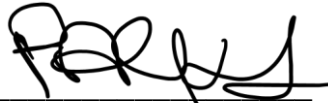
**DATE : 25 FEBRUARY 2025**

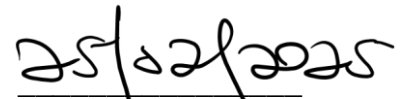
1. The outbreak of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) has been reported in educational institutions of KwaZulu Natal (Ethekwini District) and Eastern Cape (Buffalo City Municipality) provinces, particularly in primary schools and daycare centres/ crèches.
2. The hand, foot and mouth disease is a contagious viral infection that commonly affects infants and children under 10 years of age.
3. It is characterised by fever, feeling unwell, loss of appetite, mouth sores, and a rash on the hands, feet, and sometimes buttocks. Symptoms usually start 3 to 7 days after infection and last 7 to 10 days.
4. There is no specific treatment for HFMD, but it usually clears up in 7 to 10 days. HFMD is usually diagnosed clinically based on symptoms.

**ALERT TO DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS ON THE OUTBREAK OF HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE**

5. Principals, educators and parents should encourage good hygiene practices such as:
  - 5.1 Washing of hands with soap regularly,
  - 5.2 Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, and
  - 5.3 Avoiding close contact with others.
  
6. Principals are advised to contact the Department of Health institutions/health centres when there are suspected or confirmed cases of HFMD. Reference should also be made to the Department of Basic Education (DBE) Circular No S3 of 2025 (attached) which guides schools on HFMD.
  
7. Children found to be affected with HFMD should not be excluded from school if they are well enough to attend, and there is no indication to close schools or restrict attendance when cases arise.

Yours in Quality Education Service,

  
MRS P. A. GXULUWE  
DIRECTOR: SHS&LE

  
DATE

**ALERT TO DISTRICTS AND SCHOOLS ON THE OUTBREAK OF HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE**