



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001, Sol Plaatjie House, 222 Struben Street, Pretoria, 0002, South Africa
Tel.: (012) 357 3000, Fax: (012) 323 0601, www.education.gov.za

Ref no: 76025/1
Enquiries: Dr A Rozani
Tel: (012) 357-3416
Email: rozani.a@dbe.gov.za

Mrs S Maasdorp
Acting Head: Education
Steve Zukile Tshwete Complex Zone 6
Zwelitsha
BISHO
Eastern Cape
5605

By e-mail: sharon.maasdorp@ecdoe.gov.za

Dear Mrs Maasdorp

CIRCULAR NO S3 OF 2025: ALERT ON THE HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (HFMD) OUTBREAK

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) has issued an alert on the outbreak on the Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD). According to this alert, HFMD cases have been since the beginning of February 2025 in eThekweni District. These cases have been found in primary schools and daycare centres in the district's northern region.

Furthermore, the Department of Health has also issued a media alert that is dated 18 February 2025 calling for calm amid this outbreak, as well as vigilance and implementation of safety measures that will curb its spread.

HFMD is a communicable viral infection that is transmitted by close physical contact and the cases present with symptoms such as fever, sore throat, fatigue, loss of appetite, small blisters on the inside of the mouth, sides of the tongue, palms of the hands, and soles of the feet

It is a mild viral infection which often clears without medication, however, schools must play a critical role in preventing its spread, as children interact and may infect each other.

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The Principal should also contact local public health authorities for advice following suspected or confirmed cases of HFDM. Preventative measures that schools should take are stated in the attached circular: Circular No 3 of 2025.

Please bring the contents of this circular to the attention of all schools. Additional information on the disease and the alerts can be accessed from the National Institute of Communicable disease using the following link <https://www.nicd.ac.za/health-department-calls-for-calm-amid-hand-foot-and-mouth-disease-hfmd-outbreak/>.

The Department of Basic Education also echoes the call for calm and vigilance in our schools. Let us continue working together to keep our schools safe spaces for all staff, learners, parents and visitors.

Yours sincerely



MR HM MWELI
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 22 FEBRUARY 2025