



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education



SEP 24 2008

DepED MEMORANDUM

No. **441**, s. 2008

DISSEMINATION OF PHILIPPINE SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 627
**(Otherwise Known as the Implementation of the 1ST Global
 Handwashing Day on the 15TH of October 2008)**

To: Undersecretaries
 Assistant Secretaries
 Bureau Directors
 Directors of Services, Centers and Heads of Units
 Schools Division/City Superintendents
 Heads, Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools

1. For the information and guidance of all concerned, enclosed is a copy of Philippine Senate Resolution No. 627, a "Resolution Urging the Department of Health, Department of Education, and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation to Use All Resources Available, to Actively Participate and Assist the United Nations General Assembly in the Successful Implementation of the 1st Global Handwashing Day on the 15th of October 2008".
2. In support of United Nation's (UN) designation of 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation, and Global Handwashing Day, the Department of Education will join millions of children around the world in celebrating the 1st Global Handwashing Day on Wednesday, October 15, 2008.
3. Particular attention should be given to the importance of handwashing with soap and water as the simplest, most cost effective way of improving sanitation and hygiene; reduce the incidents of diarrhea by 44%; reduce acute respiratory infection by 25%; and prevent skin and eye infections and intestinal worms.
4. All public and private elementary and secondary schools are enjoined to participate in this global activity through the organization of educational and social activities in order to strengthen awareness and disseminate information on the significance of handwashing with soap and water.
5. The following are the suggested activities:
 - a. hanging of streamers in strategic places within the school;
 - b. conduct of seminars/fora to create awareness on the need to practice handwashing;
 - c. mobilization of school health personnel to supplement and complement classroom instruction on handwashing; and
 - d. coordination with other government agencies and other private sectors in the conduct of advocacy activities within the schools and communities.

6. Regional directors and schools division superintendents are encouraged to support celebration of the 1st Global Handwashing Day. The region/division health and nutrition units/sections, in coordination with other government organizations (GOs) and nongovernment organizations (NGOs), shall take the lead in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the activities in their respective areas of coverage.

7. It is expected that narrative and pictorial reports concerning the Global Handwashing Day Celebration be incorporated in the 4th quarter report on the Integrated School Health and Nutrition Program, submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Attention: The Director, Health and Nutrition Center, DepED Central Office, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

8. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

K. C. Bacani
RAMON C. BACANI
Undersecretary

Encl.: As stated

Reference: None

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS
HEALTH EDUCATION
LEGISLATIONS
SCHOOLS

Sally: Resolution No. 267 (handwashing day)
September 16, 2008

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 627

Introduced by **SENATOR RICHARD J. GORDON**

RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION TO USE ALL RESOURCES AVAILABLE, TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE AND ASSIST THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1ST GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY ON THE 15TH OF OCTOBER 2008

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly has designated 2008 the International Year of Sanitation, and Global Handwashing Day will echo and reinforce its call for improved hygiene practices;

WHEREAS, the practice of handwashing with soap tops the international hygiene agenda this year with the first-ever Global Handwashing Day slated for 15 October 2008;

WHEREAS, every year, more than 3.5 million children all over the world do not live to celebrate their fifth birthday because of diarrhea and pneumonia;

WHEREAS, handwashing with soap reduces diarrheal morbidity by 44% with hands as the touted principal carriers of disease-causing germs, and handwashing with soap can avert 1 million of those deaths;

WHEREAS, Global Handwashing Day can become a powerful platform for advocacy aimed at policy makers and key stakeholders and an occasion for concrete public commitment to actions that will spur behavior change;

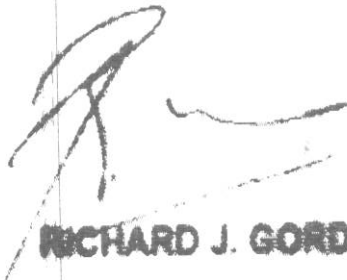
WHEREAS, handwashing with soap is a life-saving intervention within the technological and financial reach of all countries and communities. But promoting it requires appeals not necessarily to health, but to other things that people value, such as comfort and social status;

WHEREAS, handwashing with soap is the single most cost-effective health intervention. Investments in handwashing with soap can also maximize the health benefits of investments in water supply and sanitation infrastructure and reduce health risks when families do not have access to basic sanitation and water supply services;

WHEREAS, handwashing is a cornerstone of public health, and new hygienic behaviors and sanitary services are principal drivers of the sharp drop in deaths from infectious disease in affluent countries in the late 19th century; now therefore be it;

RESOLVED by the Senate, as it is hereby resolved, to urge the Department of Health, Department of Education, and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation to use all resources available, to actively participate and assist the United Nations General Assembly in the successful implementation of the upcoming 1st Global Handwashing Day on the 15th of October 2008

Adopted



RICHARD J. GORDON