



DepEd MEMORANDUM
No. **450** , s. 2009

OCT 13 2009

DISSEMINATION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RESOLUTION NO. 1436
(Otherwise Known as the Implementation of an Annual Global
Handwashing Day Every 15th of October)

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau Directors
Directors of Services/Centers and Heads of Units
Regional Directors
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 House of Representatives Resolution No. 1436, 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 Global Handwashing Day Every 15th of October".
2. In support of United Nation's (UN) designation of a Global Handwashing Day, and in line with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the DepEd, the League of Provinces of the Philippines and Fit for School, Inc., for the implementation and sustainability of the EHCP, with the Department of Education declaring the program as its flagship program. The DepEd will join millions of children around the world in celebrating the Global Handwashing Day on Thursday, October 15, 2009.
3. The Essential Health Care Program (EHCP) advocates for school-based health interventions of daily handwashing with soap, daily toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste and bi-annual deworming. 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, reduction of incidence of diarrhea by 44%, acute respiratory infection by 25% and prevents skin and eye infections and intestinal worms.
4. This Department issued DepED Order Nos. 65, 66 and 76, s. 2009 calling for the institutionalization of the EHCP in schools, ordering for the immediate construction of the water and handwashing facilities for the prevention of the Influenza A (H1N1) virus, and a revised Influenza A (H1N1) response level guide for schools, respectively.
5. All public and private elementary and secondary schools are enjoined to participate in the global activity through the organization of educational and social activities to strengthen awareness and disseminate information on the significance of handwashing with soap and water. Activities are, but not limited to the following:
 - a. Hanging of streamers in strategic places within the school;
 - b. Conduct 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;
- d. Coordinate with other government agencies and other private sectors in the conduct of advocacy activities within the schools and communities; and
- e. Highlight a Global Handwashing Day celebration in the regions.

6. Regional directors (RDs) and schools division superintendents (SDSs) are encouraged to support the celebration of the Global Handwashing Day. The region/division health and nutrition units/sections, Adopt-A-School Program (ASP) coordinators in coordination with other government organizations (GOs) and nongovernment organizations (NGOs), shall take the lead in planning, implementing, 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.

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


JESLI A. LAPUS
Secretary

Encl.:

As stated

References:

DepED Order: (Nos. 65, 66, and 76, s. 2009)
DepED Memorandum: No. 441, s. 2008

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

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

CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS
HEALTH EDUCATION
LEGISLATION
SCHOOLS

Madel:c:Global Handwashing
10-9-09

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



House Resolution No. 1436

Introduced by Cong. Rufus B. Rodriguez

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 AN ANNUAL GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY EVERY 15TH OF OCTOBER.

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly has designated a Global Handwashing Day that will echo and reinforce its call for improved hygiene practices;

WHEREAS, the practice of handwashing with soap tops the international hygiene agenda with the Global Handwashing Day slated on the 15th of October 2009;

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, handwashing with soap is a life-saving intervention within the technical and financial reach of all countries. 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, the Essential Health Care Program (EHCP) advocates for school-based health interventions of daily handwashing with soap, daily toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste and bi-annual deworming;

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Department of Education, the League of Provinces of the Philippines and Fit for School, Inc., for the implementation and sustainability of the EHCP, with the Department of Education declaring the program as its flagship program;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education released DepED Orders 65 ordering for the immediate construction of the water and hand washing facility for the prevention of the Influenza A (H1N1) virus, respectively;

WHEREAS, Global Handwashing Day can become a powerful platform for advocacy aimed at policy makers and key stakeholders and an occasion for concrete public commitments to actions that will spur behavioral change; now, therefore it is;

RESOLVED by Congress, 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 annual Global Handwashing Day every 15th of October.

Adopted,


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ