



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR: NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME
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INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

TO : DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CES ESSS
NSNP MONITORS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

CC : CLUSTER CHIEF DIRECTORS

FROM : DIRECTOR NSNP

SUBJECT : FOOD POISONING PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

DATE : 13 NOVEMBER 2023

The subject bears reference.

1. This memorandum seeks to remind schools of the standing guidelines for the prevention, identification and management of food contamination and poisoning incidents.
2. The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) has implemented the Revised NSNP guidelines (2018) that provides the following areas for urgent review:

DOCUMENT	SECTION OF THE REVIEWED NSNP GUIDELINES
Stock management	Page 11 – 13
Safe Food Transportation	Appendix 15
Food Safety Manual	Appendix 25
Food Safety Tips to prevent Food Poisoning and contamination	Appendix 26
Management of food Poisoning and contamination (Standard Operating Procedure)	Appendix 27

3. Schools should ensure that all food items procured are of good quality and adhere to the National Department of Basic Education Food Specifications. No damaged, expired, or sub-quality food items may be procured, prepared, and served to learners.



4. Learners that show any of the following symptoms are the consumption of the NSNP meal should be immediately taken for medical attention:
 - a. Diarrhea (with or without blood in the stool)
 - b. Vomiting
 - c. General Weakness
 - d. Stomach Cramps
 - e. Pallor (pale looking)
5. Any signs and symptoms of food contamination and poisoning must **immediately** be reported to the nearest health facility as children are considered a high-risk category for the administration of any medical intervention.
6. Schools must report the incident to their District office and alert both the Department of Health and Environmental Health Practitioners to investigate and determine the cause of the incident.
7. Schools are reminded that they should keep a sample plate/ ghost plate for each meal for a period of 48 hours to send for any required testing by the Environmental Health Practitioners.
8. For any additional queries kindly contact your District NSNP Officials or the Provincial Directorate.


VERONA E. WITBOOI RD(SA)
DIRECTOR: NSNP

11 NOVEMBER 2023