



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Education Towers, No.5 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad

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E: 19/13/13

FROM : Chief Education Officer

TO : Principals/Administrators, Primary and Secondary Schools/ECCE Centres
Schools Supervisors III, II & I

DATE : March 17, 2023

SUBJECT : **Guidelines for Dealing with Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease**

In recent times, there have been confirmed cases of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease reported at schools. In this regard, the Ministry of Education has communicated with the County Medical Officer of Health, who has approved the following measures to be taken in these circumstances:

- All affected students should remain at home until they have recovered. Typically, the virus runs a course of 7-10 days and is self-limiting, but highly contagious.
- All students of the affected class should be assessed medically for the symptoms and signs of the virus, as listed below:
 - Fever
 - Decreased appetite/tolerating liquids only
 - Sores/blisters to mouth
 - Sores/blisters to palm of hand and sole of feet
- Parents should be advised to seek medical care if:
 - Their child is not drinking enough to stay hydrated
 - The child's fever lasts longer than 3 days
 - The child has a weakened immune system (body's ability to fight germs and sickness)
 - Symptoms are severe
 - Symptoms do not improve after 10 days.

Kindly share these guidelines, as well as the attached PowerPoint presentation and e-book ([Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease E-Book](#)) on Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease with parents, students, and relevant members of staff.

Principals are also advised to contact the Education District Nurse assigned to the relevant education districts for further assistance if required.

Your usual cooperation is anticipated.



Chief Education Officer

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cc *Director, School Supervision and Management Division*
 Director, Early Childhood Care and Education Division
 Education District Health Services Unit