



# **GAUTENG PROVINCE**

EDUCATION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## **INTERNAL MEMO**

**TO: SCHOOL PRINCIPALS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
CHIEF DIRECTORS DISTRICTS  
DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

**FROM: MR RUFUS MMUTLANA  
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

**SUBJECT: SUSPENSION OF FOOD VENDORS/TRADERS  
WITHIN SCHOOL PREMISES**

1. The above matter refers.
2. The purpose of this memo is to instruct school principals, senior management teams and school governing bodies to immediately suspend sale of food within schools and around school premises until further notice.
3. The Department has noted the increase in incidents of poisoning which have led to loss of lives and illness among learners across schools in Gauteng.
4. The schools are further instructed to monitor and regulate vendors, tuckshops and any other outlet that sells food to learners. The schools and SGBs must ensure that:
  - a. All food sold within and around school premises are of nutritional value.
  - b. No expired and repackaged food items are sold to learners.
  - c. Any person or business selling food to schools and learners comply with regulation 638 of 22 June 2018.
  - d. Schools, SGBs and vendors and traders must familiarise themselves with the provision above.

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5. The Department has previously issued memos that sought to regulate sale of foods to learners. The guidelines raised in the memos are:
  - a. Food vendors and traders must contact their local Health Department: Environmental Health Division and apply for a Certificate of Acceptability before selling food to learners.
  - b. The premises or stalls that sell food must be inspected and approved before they can commence operations.
  - c. SGBs must ensure that vendors comply with the regulations and that the food items sold are fit for consumption ie that they are bar coded and are obtained from reputable suppliers.
6. The schools are urged to reinforce these guidelines and ensure compliance. Non-compliance must be reported immediately to the District Office and the Department of Health.
7. Schools and SGBs are urged to immediately issue a circular to parents not to provide lunch money but prepare meals for learners at home until the relevant departments have issued further guidelines regarding food vendors.
8. You are also advised to start engagements with community organisations, education stakeholders and small business associations to forge collaborative relations that address the issue of poisoning.
9. We also refer you to the attached Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) regarding management of suspected food poisoning and contamination in the National School Nutrition Programme.

Yours sincerely.



**MR. RUFUS MMUTLANA**  
**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

DATE: 07 / 11 / 2024