



HIV/AIDS & Our Primary School

What does our school need to do to implement the HIV/AIDS Policy?



- ✚ Train all staff in HIV/AIDS/STIs for at least 2 days including planning & programming and life skills
- ✚ Give all staff the DoE HIV/AIDS/STI Resource Book
- ✚ All staff should read and discuss the HIV/AIDS Policy & HIV/AIDS/STI Implementation Plan 2007-2012
- ✚ Write HIV/AIDS activities & training into your School Learning Improvement Plan
- ✚ Have a First Aid kit (including bleach and latex gloves for cleaning up blood spills)
- ✚ Train your Board of Management and your P&C in the HIV/AIDS Policy, gender equity and basic HIV/AIDS/STI information
- ✚ Talk to your community about the Plan, the Policy & the syllabus. Discuss how to protect staff and students from HIV/AIDS and how will you teach it to your students. Lead community HIV/AIDS activities like World AIDS Day (1st December)

- ✚ Teach life skills and HIV/AIDS/STIs and reproductive health in Grade 5 Health and Grade 6-8 Personal Development. Demonstrate the correct use of male and female condom from Grade 5 along with how to resist pressure and say “no” to risky behaviour.
- ✚ Be a health promoting school. For example, are there separate toilets for boys and girls? Is there water and soap for washing and clean water for drinking? Are both girls and boys treated equally?
- ✚ Male and female condoms and lubricant must be available for all staff. Upper Primary students need to know where condoms are available in their community.
- ✚ Build links with your Church HIV/AIDS services, testing clinic, AIDS Committee, NGOs and community health workers
- ✚ Zero tolerance for teachers and students who abuse or harass others. Teachers must be role models for behaviour at all times.



Learning about HIV/AIDS: our schools, our future, our responsibility



Department of Education
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HIV/AIDS & Our Primary School



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of the Secretary

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SECRETARY'S CIRCULAR NO. 49/2007

SUBJECT: ON THE NEW HIV/AIDS/STI IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND ABC APPROACH

The HIV/AIDS/STI Implementation Plan for the National Education System 2007-2012 was launched at the Senior Education Officers' Conference, Lae, on Wednesday 23rd May 2007. This was a major achievement for the Department and will guide us all in the response to the HIV and STI epidemic. We are all at risk of HIV and we must all work together to prevent the spread of the virus and care for and support those affected and infected.

All Provincial Education Advisers, Inspectors, Primary, Secondary and tertiary institutions will be sent a copy of the Plan. On the reverse of this Circular are guidelines for all schools to help you implement the HIV/AIDS Policy in your school.

ABC – Abstain from sex, both be faithful and both be tested, use a condom

ABC is essential to protect young people and teachers from risk. This is the national response to the HIV epidemic and Department of Education Policy. Vital life skills include saying "no" to sex, resisting pressure to take risks, critical thinking, strong values, negotiating safer sex, being assertive and the correct use of male and female condoms.

Schools are expected to begin teaching life skills for HIV/AIDS from Grade 5 in Health and within Personal Development in Grade 6-10. This includes teaching about male and female condoms and should be in consultation with your local community.

Male and female condoms should be available to all staff and all boarding students as stated in the HIV/AIDS Implementation Plan (1.5.2 ii page 11 and 3.1.3 ii page 18). Condoms and life skills are proven and effective strategies for saving lives.

I encourage all teachers and officers to have an HIV blood test. They are free, fast and confidential. Your nearest testing centre can be found through your Provincial AIDS Committee or your Church agency.

I remind all staff that no student or teacher or officer must be discriminated against because of their HIV status. Stigma and discrimination are against the law and against Christian principles of love and care.

Our challenge

The HIV/AIDS/STI Implementation Plan 2007-2012 is challenging and ambitious. It is also practical and based on the needs of our students and our teachers. Please take the time to read and discuss the Plan and the Policy. You should develop your own HIV/AIDS plan for your school. Many of you are writing School Learning Improvement Plans and HIV/AIDS activities should be part of these.

The HIV epidemic is a major challenge for all Papua New Guineans but we can make a difference if we work together. Education is the key to protecting our country.

God bless your work.

DR. JOSEPH PAGELIO
Secretary of Education

Distribution:

All Staff
All PEAs
All Inspectors
All Principals/Headteachers

Who can help?

Your cluster primary and secondary schools

Recent graduates from Teachers Colleges or PNGEI

Teachers Colleges, Standards & Guidance officers, DEAs and PEAs

Your local church and health services

Basic Education Development Project and District Women Facilitators

Your Provincial AIDS Committee

UNFPA Population Education, VSO, UNICEF, Anglicare, Save the Children, PNG Family Health Association, Hope Worldwide and others

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