EDN(SE)-H(23)-6-5/2025-26- News Cutting
Directorate of School Education,
Himachal Pradesh

20 AUG 2026

Dated Shimla -171001 August, 2026

To

All the Deputy Directors School Education (Elementary)
Himachal Pradesh

Subject:- **Regarding standard operating procedures and Urgent Measures to Prevent Water-Borne Illnesses in Government Schools During the Monsoon Season.**

Sir,

It has come to light through public media reports dated 19.08.2026 that several students at Government Primary School (GPS) Bari, District Kullu, fell ill on 18.08.2026 after consuming the Mid-Day Meal (MDM).

Upon investigation by the Deputy Director of School Education (Elementary), District Kullu, it was reported that kheer prepared with fresh locally-sourced milk was served to 47 students. Two students experienced illness during school hours, while 38 others developed symptoms at home later that evening. All affected students were admitted to nearby medical facilities; most have been discharged, while five remain under treatment. Notably, school teachers and Cook-cum-Helpers (CCHs) who consumed the same meal remained unaffected. As per the preliminary inquiry report the illness of the students was due to the contaminated water.

In view of the ongoing monsoon season, the risk of water-borne diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, dysentery, and gastroenteritis remains significantly heightened due to heavy rainfall and compromised water supply. To safeguard the health and well-being of students, you are hereby directed to strictly enforce the following preventive measures with immediate effect:

1. **Water Safety & Testing:** Coordinate immediately with the local Jal Shakti Vibhag to conduct routine quality testing and cleaning of all drinking water sources within school premises.
2. **Safe Drinking Water:** Ensure mandatory cleaning and regular chlorination of all water storage tanks.
3. **Hygiene Practices:** Direct all Cook-cum-Helpers (CCHs) to maintain strict personal and kitchen hygiene. Ensure all raw ingredients are thoroughly washed with clean water before cooking and that meals are served fresh and fully cooked.

In view of the circumstances outlined above, prompt and timely action on your part will play a critical role in preventing and mitigating the spread of water-borne diseases.

Director
School Education
Himachal Pradesh Shimla-171001

Endst. No Even Dated Shimla - 171001 the August, 2026
Copy to:-

1. In view of the recent illness of students at GPS Bari, District Kullu, all Headmasters/Principals are directed to ensure that only safe, filtered water is used for drinking, washing ingredients, and cooking Mid-Day Meals (including Complex Schools). Schools lacking functional water purifiers/RO systems must immediately procure and install them using available school funds. Until operational, only clean boiled water shall be provided to students, or students may be advised to bring boiled water from home. Any lapse in compliance will invite strict disciplinary action under the rules.
2. Guard File

Director
School Education
Himachal Pradesh Shimla-171001