



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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News Release:

Status on the incident at Cap-de-Ville Government Primary School

The use of pasta has been suspended in all school meals served by the National Schools Dietary Services Limited, NSDSL, pending a full investigation of pasta suppliers' storage and distribution practices. This follows an incident on Wednesday at the Cap-de-Ville Government Primary School, where some students fell ill and were rushed to the Point Fortin Area Hospital.

Representatives of the NSDSL, the Public Health Department, School Supervision and Student Support Services, will meet with teachers, parents and relevant stakeholders at the school tomorrow, Friday November 23, from 1:00 p.m..

The Ministry of Education wishes to advise that the following action was taken by the NSDSL in accordance with its contingency plan:

- NSDSL personnel, including its Quality Assurance Officer, managed the situation from the time of receipt of the report, liaising with all major stakeholders.
- Service from the catering company that supplied meals to the school is suspended, pending the outcome of an investigation.
- All meal service at the Cap-de-Ville Government Primary school has been suspended until further notice.

- Another NSDSL caterer in the same geographical area is now responsible for servicing the other schools which were in receipt of meals from the suspended caterer until further notice.
- The five schools serviced by the catering company on Wednesday were investigated and only satisfactory reports received.
- Arrangements have been made with CARIRI to have the food samples collected by the NSDSL, tested and analysed and the results made available.

The NSDSL, through its Quality Assurance Officers, regularly monitors the food service operation of its Caterers through periodic on-site visits to assure that the production of meals conforms to regulations and standards.

The Ministry wishes to advise that preliminary investigations are continuing. There were five other schools, including pre-schoolers, served on Wednesday by the same caterer and no negative reports have been received.

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