



INTERNET ARTICLE

Hand hygiene must be taught at an early age

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The Mpumalanga Provincial Office of the Department for Water and Sanitation (DWS) embarked on a health and hygiene awareness campaign to educate and remind learners of the importance of properly washing hands in schools in Emalahleni Local Municipality on 08 and 09 September 2021. The awareness campaign was taken to Impilo, Amandla, Sukumani and Mokibe Primary Schools.

Proper washing of hands is critical in the prevention of diseases and cannot be overemphasized during this time as we fight the coronavirus. Hands are said to be the most common vehicles to spread bacterias and viruses that cause diseases resulting in people being hospitalized for treatment and in some instances leading to death. In our daily activities and routines, we usually touch many shared surfaces which makes us susceptible to contracting different forms of viruses, thus making it critical to frequently wash our hands to prevent us contracting and spreading diseases. It is therefore critical to regularly and properly wash our hands at all times to be safe and healthy.

Ms Lomina Shongwe and Ms Sandra Ndlovu educated the learners and the educators about the importance of proper handwashing and also demonstrated the correct steps of washing hands as clean hands save lives. They also called on the learners to showcase the steps of handwashing to show their understanding of the handwashing awareness and to help continue educating their peers and families. Basically, the learners were encouraged to be ambassadors of the Department and promote proper handwashing in their communities.

Ms Zandile Mkhathswa encouraged the audience to use be ambassadors of water conservation and use water sparingly and in a wise manner at all times and distributed water saving tips.

The awareness was so informative and educational as the learners stated that they have learned the importance of washing hands in a proper way. "This awareness makes us aware of the importance of hand hygiene. Children must be taught at an early age to be clean. I have also learned that South Africa is a dry and water scarce country and this makes it important for everyone to save water at all times. It teaches us that we must not play and waste water", said one of the learners from Amandla Primary School, Katiso Mokwena.





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