



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 14, 2006

TO: Local and Intermediate School Superintendents, Public School Academy
Directors, and Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *Carol*

SUBJECT: Hand Washing Signage Requirements

Hand washing is a vital tool in preventing the spread of bacteria and viruses that can cause infections and foodborne illness. Food establishments, including schools, may make their own hand washing signs as long as the signs are clearly visible and legible. The federal food code reference to hand washing signage is: 6-301.14 Hand Washing Signage and states: **"A sign or poster that notifies FOOD EMPLOYEES to wash their hands shall be provided at all hand washing lavatories used by FOOD EMPLOYEES and shall be clearly visible to FOOD EMPLOYEES."**

Additional hand washing requirements can be found on the *Hand Washing Fact Sheet* (prepared by the Michigan Department of Agriculture) at:
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/MDA_5FSHandwashing_6342_7.pdf

An organization called the Michigan Food Service Compliance Center (MFSCC) has been sending an "advisory" flyer to food service establishments regarding required hand washing posters for food establishments in Michigan.

The flyer cites sections of the Federal 1999 Food Code and the State Food Law of 2000. The wording makes it appear as if an operator risks being closed down or fined up to \$2500 unless specific hand washing posters are used. The MFSCC says it will sell its "approved" hand washing posters at a cost of \$19.95 each.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Restaurant Association are aware of the attempt being made by MFSCC to sell its posters. Furthermore, the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) has issued guidance to the local health departments stating that MFSCC *is not* endorsed by MDA. School districts can make their own decision on whether to purchase these posters or not.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact the Michigan Department of Education's School Nutrition Training and Programs Unit at 517-373-2077.

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