

डॉ. सुनीता शर्मा

Dr. Sunita Sharma

MD (Pathology)

स्वास्थ्य सेवा महानिदेशक

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES



भारत सरकार
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
स्वास्थ्य सेवा महानिदेशालय

Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Directorate General of Health Services

D.O. No. NRCP/555007/2019/DZDP/NCDC(Part-1)

Dated: 9 September, 2025

Dear Ms. Reddy ,

World Rabies Day, observed every year on **28th September**, is a global initiative to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to unite people worldwide in the fight against this deadly yet preventable disease. Rabies is a **100% fatal but completely preventable** viral disease, most commonly transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected dog. Children are among the most vulnerable groups due to their frequent interactions with dogs and limited awareness about protective measures.

World Rabies Day is also an occasion to honor **Louis Pasteur's groundbreaking development of the rabies vaccine**. The **2025 global theme**, "**Act Now: You, Me, Community**", for 'World Rabies Day' is a powerful call encouraging individuals, leaders, and communities to take collective action now to eliminate rabies.

In alignment with World Rabies Day, it is proposed that the Directorate of Education, GNCT Delhi may issue an advisory urging all schools in Delhi to conduct awareness sessions on animal bite prevention during the week of **22-28 September 2025**. These sessions may be integrated into morning assemblies and classroom activities and will be invaluable in empowering children with knowledge, preventive behaviors, and first-aid responses in case of animal/dog bite.

On the occasion of World Rabies Day 2025, schools may be encouraged to organize awareness programs for schoolchildren covering the following key topics:

1. **What is Rabies:** Understanding rabies, its mode of transmission, and why it is dangerous.
2. **Safe Behavior Around Dogs:** How to approach and behave around unfamiliar or stray dogs.
3. **Responding to Aggressive Dogs:** Actions to take when a dog approach aggressively.
4. **First Aid After Dog Bite/Scratch:** Washing wounds immediately with soap and running water for 15 minutes, informing parents/teachers, and seeking medical attention.
5. **Community Responsibility:** How to identify and report stray or potentially dangerous dogs in their neighborhoods.

Awareness among children is critical, as they are often the first victims of dog bites. Educating them will not only safeguard their health but also strengthen community participation in rabies elimination efforts.

The detailed **IEC materials and protocols** to be used for these awareness programs may kindly be downloaded from the following link for circulation to all schools: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1ejyt5iS9LdNfuOL46MZQPP3okOqSlajD>

The **activity photographs** of programs conducted by the schools may be shared with the Program Division at: nahreindia-ncdc@ncdc.gov.in

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,



(Sunita Sharma)

To,

Ms. Veditha Reddy,
Director, Directorate of Education,
GNCT of Delhi.

Copy to:

Sh. Ashok Kumar,
Secretary (Education), Education Department, GNCT of Delhi

Copy for Information:

1. PS to Secretary-Health, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GoI.
2. PS to Addl. Secretary (VHZ), MoHFW, GoI
3. PS to Joint Secretary (PH), MoHFW, GoI
4. PS to Director, National Centre for Disease Control, Dt.GHS, MoHFW, GoI